

More than mere yobs, these young Germans are serious about violence

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

"AND THESE people want to organise the World Cup" – screamed the headline above a picture of rampaging football hooligans. That was in *Bild*, the biggest German tabloid, and it ran last week at the zenith of English antics in Marseilles.

After the violence in Lens on Sunday, the irony that Germany – rivals to stage the World Cup in 2006 – is now tarred with the same brush as England, has so far been lost on the German press. But the smugness is gone, and the void is filled with shame. A shame so strong that there were suggestions yesterday that the country's football officials had offered to withdraw from the World Cup.

For once, the Germans would happily trade places with Britain. The ugly, drunken, English louts whose mock charges filled last week's television screens may seem preferable to the German image now playing to the rest of the world: sober, well-drilled youths in ordinary clothes, united by a common zest for brutality.

If it is true that German hooligans wanted to prove they are tougher than the worst England can throw at them, then they are one nil up. Their first victim, a French policeman named Daniel Nivel, is fighting for his life. When they chose to act, they are the best organised and most violent football hooligans in Western Europe.

According to official estimates, some 650 "category C" hooligans have made it to France from Germany. These are the people classified as "prone to violence". By contrast, there were only an estimated 30 to 50 category C English soccer thugs involved in the recent violence in Marseilles.

The French authorities appear to have been taken by surprise by the number of German hooligans and their organisational skills. It is unclear whether the German police underestimated the scale of the problem or if the French failed to act on information. All the big German clubs have



...und diese Engländer wollen die WM 2006 ausrichten

German supporters taunting French police before the Germany-Yugoslavia match in Lens last Sunday brought shame to replace smugness. *'Bild'* said last Tuesday (left): 'And these Englishmen want to stage the World Cup in 2006.' Yesterday, after Lens, the tabloid said (right): 'We are ashamed.' Olivier Morin

Wir schämen uns!
Deutsche randalierten in Lens • Polizist im Komma

their own category C fans, usually with their own enclosures. They identify themselves with militaristic titles, such as the Eagle Front of Hamburg and Dortmund's Borussia Front (Prussian Front). These gangs

do not wear club scarves or display any other token of allegiance. Nor do they wrap themselves in the German flag. The violent fraternities communicate with each other by mobile phones, faxes and via Internet pages. Members of two gangs could be bashing one another on the terraces one Saturday, only to be united against a foreign enemy the following week. Foreign outings are often planned months in advance.

Preparations for the World Cup, it was reported yesterday, had begun soon after Euro 96. Category C hooligans are mostly urban, and come from all walks of life. "They have nothing to do with any underclass,"

said Rolf Marewski, a social worker in charge of a project aimed at pacifying Dortmund fans. "They feel unrecognised by society, are looking to establish their identity, and want to be regarded as equals."

Only a minority of these hardcore hooligans are unemployed, but all are burdened with an inferiority complex that compels them to do something that people will notice. There is the thrill of the chase. "They are

fascinated with violence," Mr Marewski said. Unlike the English thugs, alcohol is not the main motivating factor behind the German violence, according to British police intelligence. They believe that few of the attacks were fuelled by drink; rather they are driven by political activism and "the thrill of the fight".

Intelligence also suggests that the German hooligans are far better organised, pre-plan travel and orchestrate "spontaneous" riots. Fun for them involves bashing like-minded people in the head at weekends.

When there are no matches, rival gangs stage wars at motorway service stations. There are an estimated 3,000 of them searching for a good scrap.

In appearance, they look similar to shaven-headed neo-Nazi youths, though social workers disagree about the importance of ideology to football hooligans. Some 20 per cent of category C fans are estimated to harbour racist attitudes, another 20 per cent are apolitical, and the rest support one of the mainstream democratic parties.

Neo-Nazi groups have tried for many years to infiltrate the hooligan gangs, but with mixed results. "We have been noticing for two or three years that right-wing extremists have strengthened their influence on football fans," Gunter Pilz, a football sociologist, was quoted as saying yesterday.

Scorchlight, the anti-Fascist magazine, said that German skinheads had connections with hooligans in other countries, particularly those belonging to the British Blood and Honour gang and the Hammer Skins – so-called for using hammers on their victims.

Mr Marewski, who has been working with Dortmund fans for 10 years, disagrees. He says there is no evidence that hooligans are becoming politicised. But raising Nazi salutes and shouting racist slogans is cool, irrespective of political affiliations. And they are all looking forward to meeting their English friends.

You've heard what the politicians have to say, but what do teenagers think about the gay age of consent?

BY REBECCA CRIPPS

"I DON'T agree with homosexuality at all, so I think the Government should raise the gay age of consent as high as is legally possible." Hussain Kahn's comments yesterday, made as MPs debated whether to lower the age of consent for homosexual sex, were representative of many of his fellow students at Kingsway College, north London.

The teenage students, all of whom are studying for their BTEC national diploma in business and finance, were at one in urging their MPs to forego the England World Cup match and turn up to the vote on the lowering of the gay age of consent – but only as long as they voted against the motion.

Indeed, most felt that the age of consent for homosexuals should be higher.

"I think 16 is too young to decide whether you're going to be gay or not. You can't just decide like that – it takes a lot of time and thought. You might decide you're gay at 16 because of certain circumstances, but then you could easily change your mind as you get older, so it's better if you grow up a bit and then decide," said Irene Hapojaro, 17, echoing the majority view.

"I think gays should be at least 21 before they're allowed to do their business. I disagree with people of a young age making that sort of decision," added Nicola Smith, 18.

While in favour of equality between homosexuals and heterosexuals, Tugba Inal, 17, felt that the age of consent should be raised to 18 for gays and straights alike: "Sixteen is too young to have sex, full stop."

Tugba, like many of her classmates, regards gay sex as a lifestyle decision. "Sixteen just seems too young to decide whether you want to live a gay or lesbian life. I think it's something that depends on your



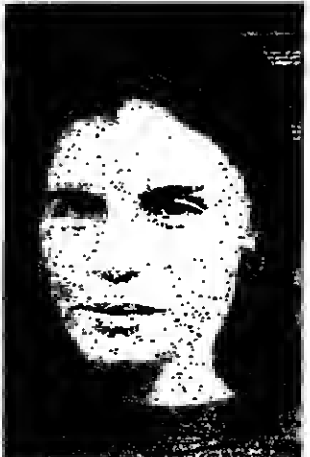
'I don't agree with homosexuality at all, so I think the Government should raise the gay age of consent as high as is legally possible'

Hussain Kahn, 18



'Gays should have the same age of consent as everyone. At 16 they're old enough to make a decision and should be allowed to do what they please'

Blanche Lashmann, 18



'Gays should be at least 21 before they're allowed to do their business. I disagree with people of a young age making that sort of decision'

Nicola Smith, 18

upbringing and environment and children should have time to break away from all of that before they make up their minds."

Although homosexuality "makes no sense" to Simeon Parker, 19, he pointed out that it is a difficult area to legislate: "How can we stop them? There are loads of people having sex under 16, so what the law says doesn't make any difference."

Only one out of this class of around 20 students was in favour of last night's motion. "Gays should have the same age of consent as everyone else because everybody's equal," said Blanche Lashmann, 18. "At 16 they're old enough to make a decision by themselves and they should be allowed to do what they please."

The class was divided on the question of the proposed amendment outlawing relationships between people in positions of authority, such as teachers, and those within their jurisdiction.

Many of the girls were in favour of legislation, citing favouritism and abuse of power as their arguments against teacher-pupil relationships, but a lot of the boys felt it was a "personal decision".

"I think some students are mature enough to have relationships with teachers and sometimes things just happen between them. They're going to do it anyway, so why try and stop them?" said Hussain Kahn.

However, Jason Samuels, 17, disagreed. "I genuinely think it's wrong for a teacher

to start something with a student.

"Even if someone's 16, they're still a teenager and likely to be far less mature than a teacher. That puts them at a disadvantage in the relationship, which is wrong. I think there should be a law against it."

Would the way their MP voted last night affect the students' future voting decisions? Probably not, they said, because they were unlikely to bother to find out who voted how, or which way the vote even went.

"It doesn't concern me. I'd rather watch the England match than sit around talking about homosexuals," said one.

No doubt more than a few MPs in the chamber last night were thinking the same.



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4/HOME NEWS

Soldiers rescued from icy summit

TWO BRITISH soldiers were snatched to safety yesterday after five days trapped near the summit of North America's highest peak.

Sergeant Martin Spooner and Corporal Carl Bougard were rescued 19,000ft up Mount McKinley, Alaska, by a high-altitude helicopter during a brief break in appalling weather and against a 40mph gale.

Despite enduring days without food or radio contact, the soldiers, both aged 35, were said to be in good spirits. However, it is feared that Sgt Spooner, who fell 300ft down a snow chute - had broken his ankle. He is also suffering from minor frostbite after wind-chill temperatures dropped to -80F.

Cpl Bougard - who volunteered to stay with him after the fall - was suffering from the effects of cold and exhaustion.

The two men came out alive because of the snowhole they had dug for shelter, waterproof sleeping bags, down jackets and a small stove to melt drinking water.

As the men recovered in

hospital, the Army announced it would launch an inquiry into the ill-fated charity expedition.

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Rayner said this was routine. "We would stress that this is not a witch-hunt. It is purely to find out exactly what went wrong," he said.

"I think it is evident from the way in which the expedition members conducted themselves that this was a very well planned expedition."

Paula Wanstall, Cpl Bougard's girlfriend, said the rescue marked the end of a long ordeal for the families. "These last few days have been absolutely terrible. A real nightmare," she said from her home in Canterbury, Kent.

"I'm obviously over the moon to learn that he has been rescued and that he seems to be in good health."

The men were part of a nine-strong British expedition aiming to be the first to climb the mountain, then descend and reach sea level in Alaska by



Captain Justin Featherstone is prepared for the journey to Alaska Regional Hospital, in Anchorage, after his rescue

canoeing to the coast through treacherous rapids.

The team's leader, Captain Justin Featherstone, 28, and Cpl Bougard stayed with Sgt Spooner and Lt Cpl Brown, while Capt Whitfield and another climber, Sgt Johnny Johnston, 33, descended to raise the alarm.

Lt Cpl Brown and Capt Featherstone attempted a descent late on Friday, but fell a further 2,000ft. Capt Featherstone broke both his legs in that fall, but rescuers were able to drag him back to the camp.

This left Sgt Spooner, a married man with two children, and Cpl Bougard on the mountain. The weather cleared enough for emergency rations to be dropped to them a few hours before their final rescue.

The final recovery took place at 11.55am GMT when the rescue crew from the United States National Parks Service made the most of a short mid-summer night, and the smallest of gaps in dense cloud and driving snow.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the Lama helicopter managed to get a 100ft line clipped on to the men, who were in survival suits, on the second attempt.

They were then suspended under the special high-altitude craft and transported down the mountain to the camp at 14,000ft and on to hospital.

"The helicopter can only spend a few minutes before it has to refuel, so it is clearly a great challenge for any air crew," the spokesman said.

Royal 'spin doctor' hired

BY PETER ABCHER

BUCKINGHAM PALACE yesterday announced the appointment of British Gas public relations chief Simon Lewis as the Queen's Communications Secretary.

The new appointment is an attempt by the Palace to improve public understanding of the role and contribution to national life of the Royal Family.

Mr Lewis, 39, who was educated at a north-London comprehensive and at Oxford University, takes up his high-profile appointment in September.

He is being seconded for two years from his present post as corporate affairs director at Centrica plc, the holding company for British Gas.

"It's an honour to be asked to do the job and I hope I can make a contribution. I'm looking forward to starting," he said.

A Labour Party member, Mr Lewis is said to play no active part in party politics.

"Suggestions that he is therefore an active New Labour political figure are totally absurd," said a Palace spokeswoman.

Similarly, the Palace dismissed claims that Mr Lewis would be the Queen's "spin doctor". There's no question of the new position being a spin doctor, said the spokeswoman.

"The Communications Secretary will be undertaking a strategic role while working closely with the Press offices at Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace."

"Downing Street have been informed of the appointment but did not participate in the selection process," said the spokeswoman.

The Queen's Press Secretary, Geoff Crawford, will remain in charge of day-to-day handling of the media and will report directly to the Communications Secretary.

Mr Lewis will have direct access to the Queen, Prince Philip and Lord Chamberlain, Lord Camoys, head of the Royal Household.

Female City dealer 'sent to Coventry' by colleagues

A DEALER with a City bank yesterday told an industrial tribunal that she lost her job because she was a woman.

Julie Edgill, 39, from Sevenoaks, Kent, claims she was a victim of sex discrimination at Danish firm, Den Danske Bank, which has an office in the City of London.

Mrs Edgill, who traded on the dollar money markets for the bank, said she was regularly tormented and sent to Coventry by male colleagues.

BY BRIAN FARMER

She told an industrial tribunal in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, that she had been increasingly isolated by her male colleagues and then in May, 1996, had out of the blue been told that she was being made redundant after seven years with the bank.

She also claimed she had not been paid as much as her male counterparts, even though she was equally experienced and

was the second-highest revenue earner on the desk where she worked.

One of the main "protagonists" of her treatment at the bank was fellow dealer Martin Bracken, she claimed.

Mr Bracken, who is also in his late thirties, stood for the Liberal Democrats in the Chelmsford West seat in Essex in the 1997 election and narrowly lost to the Conservatives.

Den Danske Bank disputes Mrs Edgill's claims and denies

any breaches of the sex discrimination or equal pay laws.

The bank says Mrs Edgill was made redundant because she did not have the flexibility needed to operate in a variety of markets.

Mrs Edgill told the tribunal panel that she was the only woman among eight dealers on the money market desk - and was the second-highest revenue earner.

For several years she was considered an extremely ca-

pable dealer and her performance had been praised during annual appraisals. At the time of her dismissal she was earning in excess of £40,000.

But by 1994 she was feeling increasingly isolated by her male colleagues, she told the tribunal. "I found the attitude of the male staff at the bank to be chauvinistic. I was not accepted by the desk because I was not one of the lads."

"I detected undertones of

hostility which became increasingly apparent. [One of the main protagonists was] Mr Martin Bracken."

In August, 1995, she was temporarily suspended from dealing in some commodities, including derivatives, after making large dealing losses.

She said there was a difference between her pay and that of Mr Bracken and other dealers which was "not justified".

She continued: "The hostility increased significantly ...

The desk would sometimes send me to Coventry for a day at a time.

She said colleagues, including Mr Bracken, would on many occasions comment on the clothes she was wearing, or say she had put on weight.

"I was asked if I was going out with a new boyfriend. I was divorced. This was more than office banter," Mrs Edgill told the tribunal.

The hearing was adjourned until today.



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Royal 'spin doctor' hired



Ronald Platt's body was found off Teignmouth

Man killed after selling identity

A CANADIAN businessman who fled the country after allegations of financial dishonesty and a broken marriage persuaded an Englishman to sell him his identity and move to Canada, only to kill him when he returned to the UK, a court heard yesterday.

It is claimed that Albert Walker, 52, murdered Ronald Platt in 1996, after becoming "exasperated" at his failure to lead an independent life, which would have protected the Canadian from discovery.

Exeter Crown Court heard that Walker, who denies the charge, fled to Canada with his daughter Sheena, now 22, in 1990 following the break-up of his marriage and an impending and costly divorce settlement.

Charles Barton, for the prosecution, said Walker had left Canada, where he ran a financial services business, with

BY KEITH NUTHALL

"various substantial sums, not all of which belonged to him".

Over here, he first assumed the identity of a David Davis, and his daughter used the name Noel. They lived in a flat in Chelsea, but later moved to Harrogate.

There they met and befriended Mr Platt and his girlfriend Elaine Boyes, who were offered financial help in 1992 to move to Canada, which they accepted.

The court was told that Walker, of Woodham Walter, Essex, subsequently assumed the identity of Mr Platt, running credit cards and bank accounts in his name, the court heard.

His daughter became Noel Platt and began to pose as his wife. She bore two children, but the court was not told the identity of their father.



Sheena, the daughter of Albert Walker

Mr Platt, said Mr Barton, had been "obsessed" with Canada, where he had spent time as a child.

But he and Miss Boyes were not successful in carving out a new life. She returned to England the following year, and Mr Platt, who had trouble mak-

ing ends meet, returned in 1993. By that time Walker and his daughter had moved to a village near Chelmsford, Essex, where he had started a counselling business.

Walker supported Mr Platt on his return until July 1996, when the Englishman disappeared. His body was later dredged from the seabed by a trawler off Teignmouth that month.

Platt was only identified through a Rolex Oyster watch on his wrist which bore a reference number that allowed Devon police to trace its owner: the real Ronald Platt, and subsequently his family.

Mr Barton said that the accused had told Elaine Boyes that Platt had left for France, where he was about to start another business, using capital provided by himself.

The case continues.



An artist's impression of Albert Walker in court

New backing for banned allergy cure

A TREATMENT for allergies that fell out of use in Britain over a decade ago after being linked with a series of deaths has been given a stamp of approval by the World Health Organisation.

Immunotherapy - a series of injections that desensitise allergy-prone individuals - led to the deaths of a number of patients treated by GPs in the early 1980s after they suffered anaphylactic shock (sudden collapse) on being exposed to doses of the substance to which they were sensitive.

The deaths led to restrictions on the therapy, allowing its use only in specialist hospital allergy clinics in which full resuscitation facilities were available.

Immunotherapy is the only treatment that targets the causes of allergy rather than the symptoms, but it has been little used in Britain for the last decade. The long period of treatment required - three to five years - and the expense makes it suitable only for severely affected individuals, though it is widely used in Germany and Scandinavia.

The WHO report, published yesterday, was drawn up by a panel of experts from around the world and sets standards for the treatment. It can be used for people who are hypersensitive to bee and wasp stings, cats and other pets, who suffer hay-fever, asthma and house dust-mite allergies and who have allergic rhinitis or conjunctivitis.

The report, launched at the 17th Congress of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology in Birmingham, says that if started early

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

immunotherapy "may modify the long term progress of allergic inflammation and disease."

Professor Robert Davies, director of the allergy clinic at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said: "Immunotherapy has the potential to alter the immune response and in some people to get rid of their allergy altogether. With the explosion in allergies around the world, it is important to focus on the cause and try to stop people becoming allergic in the first place or reverse their immune response."

"Although there is now excellent treatment for allergies available, all the creams, tablets and inhalers only suppress the symptoms, they do not cure them."

Professor Davies said there is growing evidence of immunotherapy's efficacy against a wider range of allergies than pollen and stings. However, funding was difficult to obtain.

"It has taken some while for the authorities to recognise we have an epidemic of allergies. But in a cash-strapped NHS the view is that the walking wounded have to get on with it while the service copes with the mortally ill."

The WHO report says that new technologies and improved knowledge about the mechanisms of allergic disease may alter the way immunotherapy is used in the future.

"These advances should result in new, safer and substantially more effective methods of manipulating the human immune response," it says.

Christie 'couldn't have taken drugs'

AN AMERICAN forensic toxicology expert told the High Court yesterday that it was a "virtual impossibility" that athlete Linford Christie would have tested negative 100 times if he had been taking performance-enhancing drugs.

David Black, from Tennessee, was involved in the inquiry into the Ben Johnson affair in the wake of the Canadian sprinter testing positive at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. He ruled out the likelihood of systematic cheating on Mr Christie's part.

He told the court in the second week of the former world champion's libel action against John McVicar that there was a "very low probability" that Mr Christie's clean drug-testing record could be accomplished on a false basis.

A private individual would not have the necessary resources available to cheat the system that way, Mr Black said.

He added that each negative test result further verified that an individual was not a user of any of the products which could be included in the testing process. "I firmly believe that

the process is capable of identifying an anabolic steroid user over time if 100 tests are carried out," he stated.

Asked by Mr Christie's counsel, Patrick Moloney, QC, whether this meant that a consistent steroid user would be caught, Mr Black replied: "Ultimately I believe so."

Mr Christie, 38, of Twickenham, south-west London, who has now retired from competition, is suing Mr McVicar over claims that he cheated his way to the top by using banned performance-enhancing drugs.

Mr McVicar argues that his article, "How did Linford get this good?", which appeared in the now defunct satirical magazine, *Splendid*, in September 1995, is true.

The Olympic gold medalist has told the court that he had been tested more than 100 times and had only "nearly tested positive" once in 1988, and was subsequently cleared, when a tiny quantity of a substance that could be derived from the legal health supplement, ginseng, was detected.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

It's transparently obvious. The new limited edition Saxo Open Scandal has no competition this summer. Standard features include • Full length electric sunroof • CD player & radio • Driver's airbag • Transponder immobiliser. With a choice of vibrant colours and special interior trim, the Open Scandal is tailor-made for the smaller figure - just £8,195 on the road. It's one of a range of Saxo limited editions available with 2 years free insurance. For more information, please call 0800 262 262.



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6/HOME NEWS

Stagecoach couples up to Virgin rail

By RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, is to bring extra benefits for rail passengers from the tie-up between transport tycoons Richard Branson and Brian Souter.

A last-minute £140m deal between the Virgin Group and Stagecoach, the bus and rail empire, left Mr Branson with 51 per cent of his rail subsidiary - with the rest of the shares in the hands of Mr Souter.

Virgin Rail, which comprises the West Coast service and the CrossCountry franchise, is a sprawling network which links every major city in Britain. Although it has recently had a poor service record - which saw more than one in five trains delayed - Virgin Rail made a profit of nearly £13m in the 11 months up to March this year.

However, ministers are keen to extract more for the taxpayer. They point out that Virgin Rail received more than £170m in subsidy this year from the public purse and has promised more - including more than 130 new trains - but little has so far materialised.

Mr Prescott is keen to integrate more bus and coach services into the rail network and has plans for a profit-sharing deal with rail companies.

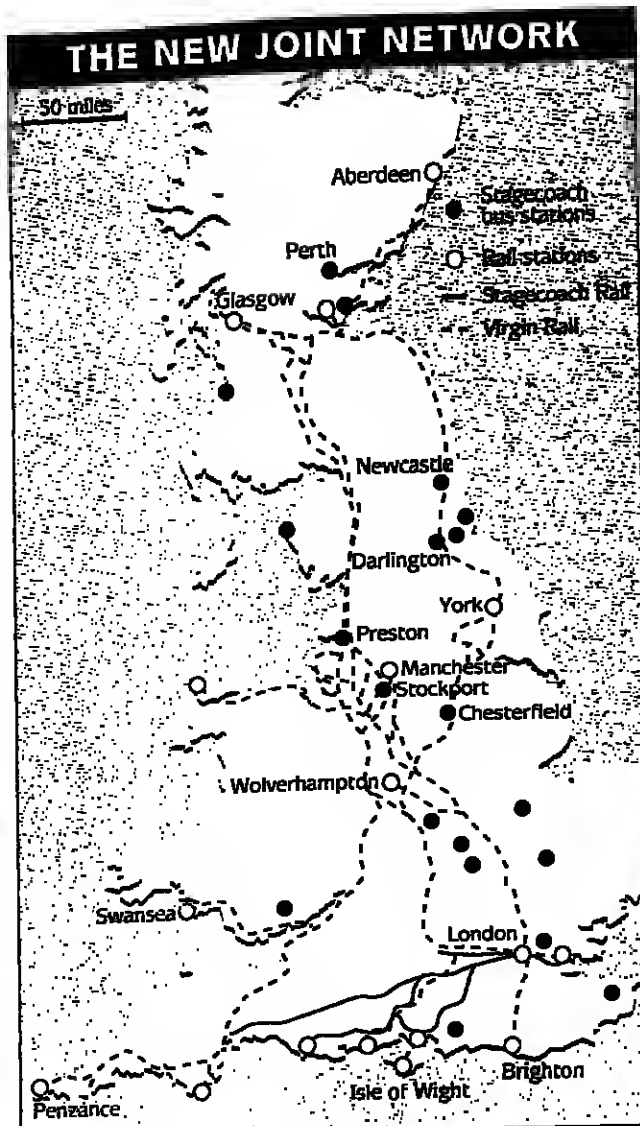
Brian Souter, the chairman of Stagecoach, said the deal would mean a "more integrated approach".

"North of Edinburgh and Glasgow the road system is much better than the rail system and we could see Virgin branded coaches dropping people off at stations to catch trains. For example, Hamilton is on the M74 and we could have a bus service linking it there."

"What we're looking at in the future is actually feeding in Stagecoach bus services into the North-west into our stations in Manchester and elsewhere," he said.

"It's been a hubbub of many critics in the past that simple things like timetabling and ticketing are not integrated as well as they should be."

Virgin intends to bring in 54 tilting trains on the London to Scotland West Coast route and is also introducing tilting and non-tilting new diesels on



CrossCountry. The £2.1bn package also involves Railtrack - the owner of the nation's track and signalling. There will be an overhaul of the West Coast main line reducing London to Glasgow journey times from around five hours to three hours 49 minutes by summer 2005.

Signed at 4am yesterday, the deal means that Mr Branson will not return in the near future to the stock market - which he left a decade ago.

Some analysts had questioned how easy it would have been to float a rail company - saying that recent failures such as Eurostar's aborted stock market listing would have put off investors.

Stagecoach, which lost out to Mr Branson's rail team when British Rail was sold off, were lured to the deal when it examined Virgin's spectacular financial success.

West Coast services carry 12 per cent more passengers than last year.

Mr Souter's company, made its name operating coach services, already runs two rail lines - Island Line, the Isle of Wight route, and South West Trains, on which passengers experienced cancellations over a driver shortage early in 1997. The new partnership is subject to approval by Rail Regulator John Swift and by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising.

Rail union chief Jimmy Knapp yesterday claimed a four-day strike by maintenance staff had "bitten deep" after thousands of passengers suffered severe delays and cancellations on Sunday evening.

An "equipment failure" in south London affected more than 200 trains, with some passengers being delayed for up to two hours.



Brian Souter and Richard Branson yesterday announcing a tie-up between Virgin Rail and Stagecoach

Michael Crabtree/Reuters

Maverick blood brothers of business

By RANDEEP RAMESH

THERE is unlikely to be an odder couple in British business. Brian Souter, the chairman of the billion-pound Stagecoach empire, is a deeply religious man noted for his aggressive business tactics, which have seen his company undercut competitors in the bus industry and take over no fewer than 30 rival firms.

Contrast this to the image of Richard Branson's Virgin group, which sprung up from the hippy counterculture of the Sixties and is credited as the plucky champion of consumer rights fighting big business.

In fact, the bearded Branson and the craggy-faced Souter have more in common than first

THE WORD ACCORDING TO SOUTER

"Picture an imaginary line from the Bristol Channel to the Wash. Above that line we have the beer-drinking, chip-eating, council house-dwelling old Labour-voting masses, probably with lower car ownership. These are wonderful customers whom we greatly appreciate."

"I don't agree that having a strong faith is incompatible with believing in a free-market economy. If people feel that I should let an-

other bus company run its buses five minutes ahead of mine so they scoop up all the passengers, forget it."

"The story is told of when I was a young boy, and a teacher was trying to help me to learn arithmetic. 'She said, 'Brian, if you had £1 in your right-hand trouser pocket and £2 in your left-hand trouser pocket, what would you have?' I replied, 'Somebody else's trousers!'"

"you're still wearing the rags?" is a one he never tires of repeating.

However, in one crucial respect they are completely different: public perception. Brian Souter has so far been unable to shake off the image of a ruthless capitalist pirate. Stagecoach is best remembered for paying a £1m fine for cutting hundreds of train services after sacking too many drivers.

Richard Branson - despite running a train service that is at times unpunctual - has yet to be tainted by his business tactics. A reputation for honesty has been highlighted by a recent court case which revealed that he had refused a bribe offered by a rival who was bidding to run the National Lottery. Recent ads even placed Virgin's founder next to Martin Luther King and Gandhi as one of the titans of the 20th century. Perhaps it is this stain-free image, and not a portion of Virgin's train set, that Brian Souter wishes to purchase for £138m.

impressions might suggest. Both are self-made millionaires, driven by a desire to succeed. Brian Souter, who grew up in a council house in Perth in Scotland, paid his way through university by working as a bus conductor before founding his Stagecoach company with just one vehicle.

Richard Branson came from less humble beginnings - his father was a barrister - but built his commercial kingdom on a record mail-order company.

Neither has political ambitions, but both possess sharp political brains. Souter is an unashamed backer of the Scottish Nationalists who has maintained close links with Scottish Labour aristocracy. Branson was a favourite of Margaret Thatcher, but also one of the first to turn up to Tony Blair's inaugural bash.

The two men dress to disarm. Brian Souter attends bankers' meetings in a red jacket, Kickers boots and a col-

larless shirt, with only a Tesco bag for his belongings. Richard Branson's jeans and woolly jumper have led many to underestimate his business acumen.

Mr Souter's exterior, also belies his sharp mind and his wit. Earlier this year Scotland's richest man won over hard-line trade unionists at one of the titans of the 20th century. Perhaps it is this stain-free image, and not a portion of Virgin's train set, that Brian Souter wishes to purchase for £138m.

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13500, 13512, 13524, 13536, 13548, 13560, 13572, 13584, 13596, 13608, 13620, 13632, 13644, 13656, 13668, 13680, 13692, 13704, 13716, 13728, 13740, 13752, 13764, 13776, 13788, 13800, 13812, 13824, 13836, 13848, 13860, 13872, 13884, 13896, 13908, 13920, 13932, 13944, 13956, 13968, 13980, 13992, 14004, 14016, 14028, 14040, 14052, 14064, 14076, 14088, 14100, 14112, 14124, 14136, 14148, 14160, 14172, 14184, 14196, 14208, 14220, 14232, 14244, 14256, 14268, 14280, 14292, 14304, 14316, 14328, 14340, 14352, 14364, 14376, 14388, 14400, 14412, 14424, 14436, 14448, 14460, 14472, 14484, 14496, 14508, 14520, 14532, 14544, 14556, 14568, 14580, 14592, 14604

Why the British Library won't get a panning

WHEN THE Queen opens the £520m New British Library on Thursday, for a little light relief she should ask to see the video produced for the building's 1,200 staff.

It solemnly informs them: "The New British Library has over 200 toilets. And each toilet is equipped with two rolls of paper."

It seems a rather tangential concern for a building which will boast 12 million books, 11 reading areas, exhibition and conference space, restaurant and coffee bar.

But the subtext is that for all the public rows over the controversial new building, its massive delays and ever-rising expense and the loss of the historic Round Reading Room at the British Museum, the new building in St Pancras, London, is modern, comfortable and efficient.

The average delivery time of a book to a reader who requests it is 50 minutes, an improvement on the full day it sometimes took when the library was in the British Museum building. The target is 30 minutes. Readers' desks in the impressive white reading rooms are wired for lap-top computers (though some banks of desks are lap-top free for those readers who find the sound objectionable).

Five of the 11 reading rooms are already open and others will open this summer, including the oriental and map rooms where the walls boast colonial portraits from the India Office.

"Five years ago who would have believed we would be opening now and that the Queen would be making a speech," Brian Lang, the chief executive, said yesterday, looking back on the publicly ridiculed, delays and Prince Charles's dislike of the building, which he described as "an academy for secret police."

But since November when the new Library first opened its doors to the public, reader sat-

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

isfaction has been high and numbers using the building have increased by 44 per cent. The interior with its high, white atrium of creamy Portland stone makes an impressive entrance hall, with the stacks of leather-bound volumes of the King George the Third Library facing the visitor.

The humanities reading room seating 452, as opposed to the old library's 393, is comfortable, quiet and efficient even if it lacks the grandeur and tradition of Panizzi's domed Round reading Room in the British Museum, where Dickens, Lenin and Marx studied. Its height, with a second tier of reading space, gives a resonance of the domed room with its inner calm. And the Library has moved into the 21st century. Book requests are made by computer, no longer on request slips sucked into pneumatic tubes.

Ironically, the growing reader satisfaction is about to have a spoke put in it. The board of the Library has drawn up plans to charge users of the reading rooms if the £65m a year funding is not increased. Their proposals are likely to have exemptions for bona fide students and perhaps a reduced scale of charges for regular users. But the principle of free access will be ended. Details will be released next week.

The Library staff are working too on plans for a digital library transferring many of their manuscripts on to the Internet. *Beowulf* is already on the Internet. But Mr Lang promises that tradition and technology will go hand in hand.

"Since we put *Beowulf* on the Internet, we have had the biggest number of requests ever to see the original. The computerised version makes people hungry to see the writing in the scribe's hand."



Visitors entering the New British Library see stacks of leather-bound volumes of the King George the Third library. Brian Harris

TIMETABLE OF DELAY

1971: "White Paper says British Museum Library is 'bursting at the seams' and rehousing the collections is a 'desperate need'.

1976: Government pays £6m for a goods yard in St Pancras.

1978: Labour education secretary Shirley Williams approves a £74m library to open by end of the 1980s.

November 1980: Conservative government reviews the project and gives the go-ahead again.

April 1982: Construction work starts.

1986: Government finds Public Services Agency underestimated costs, and increases provision for inflation from £63m to £316m.

1990: Government admits that the building that at the start of the Eighties was expected to cost £16m and open in 1990 would now cost £300m and open in 1993.

1991: Tests of new shelves find books could get damaged. First book moves have to be postponed.

1994: Numerous faults found, and questions raised over effectiveness of fire protection system. Gerald Kaufman MP describes Colin St John Wilson's design as resembling "a Babylonian ziggurat seen through a fun-fair distorting mirror".

1998: The Queen opens the New British Library. Final cost: £520m.

HOW MANY OF YOUR STAFF WOULD RISK THEIR LIVES FOR YOU?

Welsh pupils get sporting chance

RUNNING, THROWING and jumping will continue to be compulsory in Welsh primary schools to stop children becoming unhealthy couch potatoes and to nurture a new generation of sporting talent.

Earlier this year, the Government announced that it wanted big reductions in the nine-subject compulsory primary curriculum so that schools could concentrate on literacy and numeracy.

But Peter Hain, the education minister for Wales, said yesterday that schools must carry on with running, throwing and jumping even when the slimmed-down curriculum is introduced in September.

Advice on how English schools should teach these other subjects is expected to be published by Government cur-

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

riculum advisers later this summer.

Mr Hain said: "Many young children take very little exercise. Habits formed by children at primary-school age persist into later life. I am determined that our youngsters should not become the next generation of couch potatoes. I want Wales to produce a nation of fit children who will go on to become top sportsmen and women to represent Wales."

He said the changes would still leave plenty of time for reading, writing and arithmetic.

His announcement came as a report by the Chief Inspector of Schools in Wales said general fitness was unsatisfactory or poor among primary children.

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Our forces may have reduced in size, but their commitments have not. That's why volunteers are increasingly important to us and why proper training is so crucial. In civilian life it makes them better employees, better motivated, more responsible and quicker to act on their own initiative. In an emergency this could make the difference between life and death. So, next time any of your volunteers need time off for military training, we hope you'll understand and support their commitment. After all, they are prepared to risk their lives for you and your country.



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Wargames reveal the Colonel Blimps on Labour's benches

DEFENCE QUESTIONS in the Commons yesterday allowed MPs who have never quite grown up to continue their school hobbies of playing with toy soldiers, tanks, Airfix kits and battleships.

Private John Bercow (Con, Buckingham) was concerned about the future of the Territorial Army, believing that 18,000 TA soldiers will go in rumoured cuts. He was rebuffed by the junior minister John Reid, who reminded him that the Tories had cut 30,000 from the TA during their years in power.

Tories were hit time and again by the Labour refrain "more cuts took place under the Tories". This line proved effective ammunition for

Mr Reid when he accused Tony Baldry (Con, Banbury) of being another former minister "revisiting the scenes of his previous crimes".

Bob Russell (Lab Dem, Colchester) and Tam Dalyell (Lab, Linlithgow) made heavy weather of the failure, so far, of the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, to ratify the Ottawa Treaty on the abolition of landmines. Mr Howarth wanted him to sign up by the first anniversary of the death of the Princess of Wales.

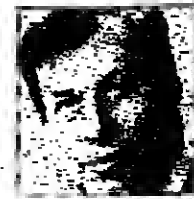
Mr Robertson had a good defence for his alleged dilatoriness, pointing out that 450,000 British anti-personnel mines (50 per cent

of the total) had been destroyed, and said he was already between four and six years ahead of the target set by the Ottawa agreement.

Mr Dalyell wanted to know "what sort of figure does our country cut in the outside world?" by our failure to ratify the treaty, but was told that parliamentary time had to be found in the legislative programme before we could sign up.

Labour backbenchers have become more gung-ho on defence even than the regular Tory "Colonel Blimps", such as Keith Simpson, taking up his position on the opposition frontbench as a newly promoted lance corporal in William Hague's recent reshuffle.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

We had the splendid Andrew Mackinlay (Lab, Thurrock) wanting a "replacement programme for

aircraft carriers and amphibious lift". John Hutton (Lab, Barrow and Furness) wanting these mass-produced in his constituency and David Borrow (Lab, Ribblesdale) engaged in garbaged diplomacy calling on troops to be sent hither and thither all over the Persian Gulf.

Robert Key, another opposition frontbench defence spokesman, was concerned about the image of our soldiers in Cyprus. They are currently confined to barracks, after several idiots spoilt an otherwise cushy number of sand, sea and sex for the garrison, by going on drunken binges in local bars in recent years. Mr Key hopes they would soon lose "their tabloid

image of indulgence" which was unfair on the overwhelming majority of sober squaddies.

Mr Reid was emphatic in making it clear that the forces in Cyprus were under the media spotlight and there would be no tolerance of indiscipline. "The many are having to suffer for the irresponsible actions of the few", he told MPs.

The House moved on to house-keeping matters before preparing for the vote on the age of consent.

Ann Taylor, Leader of the House of Commons, responsible for the customs and comforts of MPs, their bars, cleanliness of their lavatories and the like, had to face David Winnick (Lab, Walsall North) calling for

an end to the "wigs, gowns and swords". These accessories are required uniforms for Commons clerks and the Serjeant at Arms.

Mrs Taylor was non-committal and faced a fierce defence of these traditions from Sir Patrick Cormack, deputy opposition leader. He condemned Mr Winnick for his "drab uniformity" and will fight to retain the historic customs and traditions of the House should new Labour dare to undermine them.

Sir Patrick is one of the finest parliamentarians who is in the chamber every day. He has finally been found a role that suits him. I wish the Tories had used him more when they were in government.

Tories seek new curbs on hooligans

PLANS TO crack down on football hooligans do not go far enough, the Conservatives told the House of Commons last night. They called for new Football Behaviour Orders to prevent hooligans from going to matches abroad.

Debating the report stage of the Crime and Disorder Bill, Sir Norman Fowler, shadow home affairs spokesman, welcomed proposals to widen the powers of police and the courts. But he claimed violence in Marseilles highlighted deficiencies in the existing legislation.

"Over the last five years there have been 20,000 convictions for football offences, but only 71 restriction orders. We need to do more if we are to have a realistic prospect of dealing with these people," he said.

The Government's proposals will give police new powers to arrest anyone suspected of breaching an order preventing them from going to matches in this country.

They will have increased powers to keep convicted troublemakers away from important matches by making them report to police stations. Labour has also proposed raising the penalty for breaching such an order from one to six months.

Mr Fowler insisted that although no system could hope to exclude every football hooligan from travelling abroad, the pre-

CRIME AND DISORDER BY SAM COATES

sent system was not working effectively enough. He wanted to introduce legislation to allow police to go to court when they had "reasonable cause to believe that an order was necessary to prevent an individual" from causing trouble abroad.

He proposed an amendment calling for greater obligation for courts to grant restriction orders on convicted hooligans abroad; wider powers for the police to apply for restriction orders; convicted offenders to pay for the damage that they cause.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said it was unlikely that such moves could be introduced before the end of the World Cup. Proposals for a football supporters' order and the automatic imposition of restriction orders could not be put into legislation "at this stage".

Mr Straw echoed his opponent's condemnation of the fans' conduct, saying that everyone was "angry as well as shocked to see the behaviour of a small number of supporters in Marseilles".

But he rejected calls to impose restrictions on convicted hooligans. He said the Government was wary of imposing automatic sentences on specific crimes, as it did not want to take away powers from the courts.



A miner in a cage waiting to go to work, in an industry struggling with new competitive pressures

Rob Stratton

Blair scorns coal 'quick fix'

TONY BLAIR has reassessed his authority over the Treasury with the coal review to be unveiled on Thursday, which will throw a lifeline to up to ten of Britain's coal mines and around half of 5,000 threatened mining jobs.

Dismissing Treasury plans as a "quick fix", the Prime Minister yesterday ordered the Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson to rewrite his proposals for the coal industry and force more competition into the energy supply industry.

The Prime Minister's intervention in the coal review emerged yesterday as Downing Street was keen to play down re-

COAL REVIEW BY COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

ports of continuing power struggles between Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

There were also intensive efforts to smooth over the row between Mr Brown and Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, over her defeat on the minimum wage, with ministers privately blaming the Chancellor's camp for the way that Mrs Beckett was treated.

"Gordon went to the line on Wednesday night to ensure she was defeated," said a senior minister. "We wanted stories

about the Labour Government meeting its election pledges. All that came out was Gordon Brown's victory over Margaret Beckett."

Mr Blair's allies say that the Prime Minister, in another move to assert authority over the Chancellor, has insisted that partial privatisation of the Post Office - the sale of 49 per cent of its equity - should be included in the options for granting the Post Office more commercial freedom in the Autumn decision on its future.

The Prime Minister's allies were last night saying Mr Blair was determined to demonstrate his authority over his

Chancellor, and that this will be underlined with Thursday's coal review.

The result of the lengthy review, to be announced by Mrs Beckett, will force a restructuring of the industry over the long term to allow coal to compete with other sources of energy on a more equal footing. Mr Blair does not want to be seen propping up jobs in uncompetitive pits.

The energy generating companies PowerGen and National Power will be told to sell some of their power stations to increase competition in energy supply, opening the way for coal to compete with gas.

Electricity price setting will also be reformed.

A slow-down in the construction of gas-powered generating stations will be enforced, but there will be no moratorium.

The political crisis over the coal industry was brought to a head by RJB Mining, the UK's leading deep mine company, which has to renew its contracts in July or close pits.

Ministerial sources said the package could guarantee supplies of about 25 million tonnes - saving around half the 5,000 jobs at risk and eight to 10 pits owned by RJB that are threatened with closure.

Straw focuses on press freedom

HUMAN RIGHTS BY PAUL MCCANN Media Editor

JACK STRAW tilted the balance of power in the Human Rights Bill in favour of press freedom yesterday and away from a back-door privacy clause.

The Home Secretary announced an amendment to the Bill, currently at its committee stage in the House of Commons, which would require courts acting on clause eight of the European Convention on Human Rights to have "particular regard" to the importance of the right of freedom of expression.

The Bill, which brings the convention into British law, contains two clauses that seemed to be at odds: the article 10 right to freedom of expression, and the article eight right to respect for private and family life.

Many in the media had feared that article eight could have been used to prevent investigations by journalists into public figures' private and financial affairs.

The amendment to the Bill also raises the threshold of difficulty for those trying to prevent publication. Judges will only be able to "grant an injunction stopping publication if they are satisfied that the applicant could get it stopped successfully at trial."

Mr Straw said: "The amendment emphasises the importance of the convention right to freedom of expression and requires courts to take account of any relevant privacy code, such as that operated by the Press Complaints Commission. At the same time people deserve protection from unjustified interference in their private life."

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UK destroys half of landmines

IN THE last year half of all landmines - about 450,000 - have been destroyed, George Robertson, Defence Secretary, told Bob Russell (Lab Dem, Colchester).

Families helped

DAWN PRIMAROLO told Francis Maude (Con, Horsham) that by 2001 about 1.5 million working families will be receiving the Working Families Tax Credit, around 400,000 more than would have received Family Credit.

Britons in prison

THERE ARE 2,366 British nationals in prison overseas, of which four detainees are under a death sentence, according to Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett in a written reply to Tom Cox (Lab, Tooting).

Fighting tobacco

IN 1997, £2,756,000 was spent on anti-smoking advertising, according to public health Minister Tessa Jowell, in an answer to Paul Flynn (Lab, Newport West).

Cambodia rights

THE FOREIGN Office Minister Derek Fatchett told Andrew Stunell (Hazel Grove) that he pressed Hun Sen of Cambodia last month on the need for a thorough investigation into human-rights abuses.

Ashdown urges Conservative peers to support Northern Ireland Bill

TORY PEERS were last night urged not to follow Andrew Mackay, the party's spokesman on Ulster, by opposing the Northern Ireland Bill to allow the early release of prisoners as part of the Ulster peace package.

Amid growing fears within Downing Street that William Hague has lost control over his Shadow Cabinet on the issue, the Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown and Lord Alderdice, the leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, yesterday issued a joint statement calling on Tory peers to support the Bill on its second reading on 29 June, in spite of the opposition to it in the Commons led by Mr Mackay.

Their joint appeal is supported by Downing Street, and senior ministerial sources said Tory Blair was "out of control" in running Northern Ireland policy.

There are fears that the Tory peers led by Lord Cranborne, a strong Unionist, will seek to disrupt the Bill and the peace process. Mr Ashdown warned the Tories that they had "chosen the worst imaginable time to break with the well-established tradition of bipartisanship."

Lord Alderdice said: "It would be grossly irresponsible for Tory peers to attempt to

ULSTER PEACE BY COLIN BROWN

Ulster peace package.

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Lord Alderdice said: "It would be grossly irresponsible for Tory peers to attempt to



Lord Cranborne: Believed to be a strong Unionist.

delay the Belfast Agreement."

The Tory spokesman led some members of the Shadow Cabinet last week in voting against the Government on the

third reading of the Bill on the grounds that it failed to live up to the Prime Minister's pledges to link the release of prisoners with the decommissioning of terrorist weapons.

The opposition to the third reading was endorsed at a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet last Wednesday, but the Conservative leader was absent, due to his bout of flu, and half of the Shadow Cabinet also failed to vote.

Those who were around the House but did not vote included John Major, the former prime minister who relied on Tony Blair's support for his initiatives on Northern Ireland, and Sir Brian Mayhew, a former Northern Ireland minister.

Speaker backs Hansard

THE Prime Minister was cleared by the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, yesterday of having Hansard doctored.

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, had complained that a key pledge made by Tony Blair on arms decommissioning had been wiped from the official record by "someone acting for or on behalf of the Prime Minister".

Miss Boothroyd said the text had been edited by the editor of Hansard in the normal way and was an accurate reflection of Mr Blair's comments.

THE HOUSE



Gibraltar votes defeat likely

THE GOVERNMENT faces defeat in the Lords today over demands by Gibraltar for full voting rights for its citizens.

Ministers have refused to amend the law to give Gibraltar the franchise in European elections, but the Conservative majority in the Lords is in favour. The

Gibraltar government has been lobbying for the move, but the British Government says it cannot act without consulting the other member states of the European Union.

At the second reading of the European Parliamentary Elections Bill, Conservatives will back an amendment to give Gibraltar rights already extended to other states' territories, including Andorra and the Canary Islands.

Liddell cleared

A POLICE investigation into the expenses of Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has been dropped. Ms

Today in the Commons

- Questions to Scottish ministers and the Lord Chancellor's Department
- Ten-minute debate on temporary classrooms
- Conclusion of the remaining stages of the Crime and Disorder Bill
- Adjournment debate: Operation of international law in Israeli-occupied territories (Richard Burden, Lab, Birmingham Northfield)

'Rainforests of sea' face destruction



Beautiful and ecologically diverse, vast areas of the world's coral reefs are at risk from human activity, according to a detailed status report published today

Gary Bell

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS of the world's coral reefs are now at risk from human activity, the first detailed scientific review of their status will disclose today.

Coastal development, destructive fishing practices that include cyanide poisoning and dynamiting, and pollution from both land and marine sources are all threatening reefs across the globe, according to the two-year study carried out by the Cambridge-based World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and two other conservation bodies in the US and the Philippines.

Coral reefs are often thought of as "the rainforests of the sea" both for the huge numbers of species they contain, and their vulnerability to degradation.

Occupying less than a quarter of one per cent of the marine environment, they nevertheless shelter more than 25 per cent of all known fish species; more than 4,000 have so far been described, along with 800 species of reef-building corals.

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

Until now, the only information on the status of coral reefs worldwide was a 1993 estimate, much quoted but based on guesswork and anecdotal evidence, which indicated that 10 per cent of the world's reefs were dead and 30 per cent were likely to die within 10 to 20 years.

The new study, the first systematic global assessment, confirms that reefs are seriously threatened in most parts of the world: just under 60 per cent in total are believed to be at risk.

South-east Asia is the worst region, with more than 80 per cent of the reefs in the Philippines and Indonesia in jeopardy, followed by the Caribbean, where two thirds are in danger. In the Indian Ocean, and in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, more than half are threatened. Only the Pacific is in relatively good shape - more than 60 per cent of its reefs are thought to be "low risk".



"What is particularly saddening about all of this is that it is totally unnecessary," said Mark Spalding, the WCMC's coral reef expert and UK co-author of the review. "Studies from around the world are now showing that protecting reefs isn't just an exercise in pleasing the environmentalists, but that it makes

sound economic sense. Good management of these resources has shown booming and sustainable fish-yields and huge revenues from tourism, while leaving an economically crucial heritage for future generations."

The report estimates global revenues arising from coral reefs at

\$375bn (£245bn) and says that more than 100 countries stand to benefit from tourism-related income derived from their reefs.

But in too many, destruction is continuing. The growth of coastal cities and towns generates a series of threats: outright destruction from the building of airports and har-

bours, dredging to keep shipping channels open, and mining for construction materials. Most damaging are the indirect effects of development: sewage and agricultural pollution produce algae that block out the sunlight that corals need to survive.

Unregulated tourism produces

trampling, destruction of coral for souvenirs and the sewage discharge and overfishing associated with resorts. Overfishing is a problem in many places, often taking out several key fish species, upsetting the ecological balance and leading again to destructive algal blooms. Destructive fishing with poisons and explosives damages reefs directly, and oil spills are another threat.

Despite the bad news, however, there are a number of success stories, such as the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, which has been kept healthy, the study says, by careful management.

'Reefs at Risk: A Map-Based Indicator of Potential Threats to the World's Coral Reefs'. World Conservation Monitoring Centre, World Resources Institute and the International Center for Living Marine Aquatic Resources.

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Straw focuses on press freedom

HUMAN RIGHTS

active peers land Bill

Today in the Commons

Woman football agent in sex row

BY SUZANNA CHAMBERS

THE ONLY female football agent in England, who was banned from a players' dinner because she was a woman, took her sex discrimination campaign to the House of Lords yesterday.

Rachel Anderson, a Fifa-licensed agent, was refused entry to the "men only" Professional Footballers Association annual award dinner in April. Yesterday, she took her fight to Westminster in an attempt to force an amendment of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. Her campaign took the form of a petition, known as a "prayer to Parliament", read out to the House of Lords.

Mrs Anderson, who has 27 clients, including Julian Dicks of West Ham, said she felt confident her prayer would convince peers that the act needed amending. "Common sense will prevail, I hope," she said.

Mrs Anderson, 40, was invited to the dinner by Mr Dicks and was furious to be told it was a "men only" affair by Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association.

Her campaign has been backed by Tony Banks, the sports minister, and Graham Kelly, chairman of the Football Association, who both boycotted the dinner.



'Cabot's dog waiting patiently for his master to return from the high seas' - part of the Hebden Bridge natural-materials sculpture trail, which is open until 12 July

Royal College of Psychiatrists' conference Simple test is found to spot schizophrenia

BY GLENDA COOPER

DOCTORS HAVE discovered a test for schizophrenia which could help to detect the disease earlier, thus making it easier to treat sufferers.

The simple test which measures the level of sulphite in the urine has shown the chemical is particularly high in those suffering from schizophrenia.

South Thames health authority is now considering patenting the test.

However, mental health charities warned that the discovery raised "ethical dilemmas", particularly if insurance companies insisted on using it while considering life assurance.

One person in a hundred will be diagnosed at some time in his or her life with schizophrenia. There are currently 250,000 people in the United Kingdom suffering from the illness.

Mental health charities estimate that the cost of caring for those with a severe mental illness is about £500m a year.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists' annual conference was told that studies at both

Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals in London have discovered that those suffering from schizophrenia have high levels of sulphite in their urine - an abnormal build up of metabolic by-product.

But because the 35 patients who were examined were all on medication, it was originally thought that it could be as a result of the drugs they were taking.

However, Dr Theodore Soutzos, specialist registrar at the Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust, said that preliminary research suggests that levels of sulphite are equally high in those people who show symptoms of schizophrenia for the first time - suggesting that high levels of sulphite are nothing to do with the medication.

He had examined patients who had only suffered one episode and who had taken no drugs and the results were the same.

"This is groundbreaking research," he said. "The mere

concept of being able to measure something like this is unheard of.

"If we can use this to diagnose schizophrenia earlier then it means it is easier to control and we can give people smaller doses of anti-psychotic drugs, which often have serious side-effects."

Dr Soutzos added: "If you can prevent the patient developing schizophrenia, you can improve the outcome and the patient may make a full recovery."

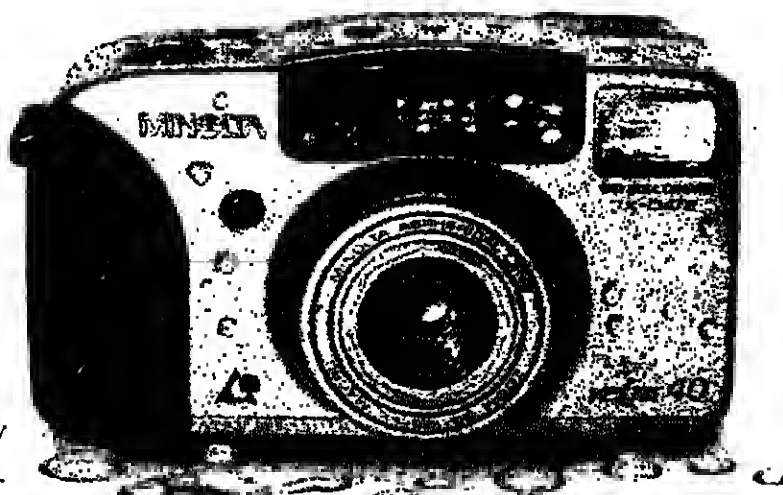
Mind, the charity which campaigns on mental health issues, warned that the test could be used in ways which would not aid the mentally ill.

"We would be concerned," said a spokeswoman yesterday. "A survey we did found that people with diagnoses such as schizophrenia or manic depression often faced discrimination over life insurance, mortgages, health insurance and car insurance so this test raises ethical dilemmas, if people were to have to take a medical."



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Immune system link to chronic fatigue

CHRONIC FATIGUE syndrome has been linked for the first time with high levels of melatonin, a powerful enhancer of the immune system, says a paper presented at the conference yesterday.

A study at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London has found that those suffering from the syndrome - formerly known as ME - have up to twice the levels of melatonin as those who do not have the disorder.

Dr Theodore Soutzos told the conference that the discovery means that the syndrome "cannot be dismissed as psychological". He said that it was "not just about people whingeing", and those who succumbed to CFS tended to be people who drove themselves.

Dr Soutzos, who worked jointly with Dr Ram Seth, explained: "What happens then is that they get an increased workload - for example a work-

ing mother who has a couple of children to look after and then her own parents fall ill and she has to take care of them.

"They drive themselves until they overdo it, and then if they are susceptible to [the syndrome] start to produce high levels of melatonin."

The high levels disrupt the immune system, which leads to the patient getting ill.

The discovery means that CFS - sufferers from which include the Duchess of Kent and Esther Rantzen's daughter, Emily Wilcox - is not, as previously thought, a psychological disorder but is closely linked to immunology. The two authors of the paper called for CFS to be reclassified as an immune system disease.

The study looked at 44 CFS patients and 17 controls. Because melatonin levels can vary at times of day and at stages of the menstrual cycle,

all the subjects were female at the same stage of their cycle.

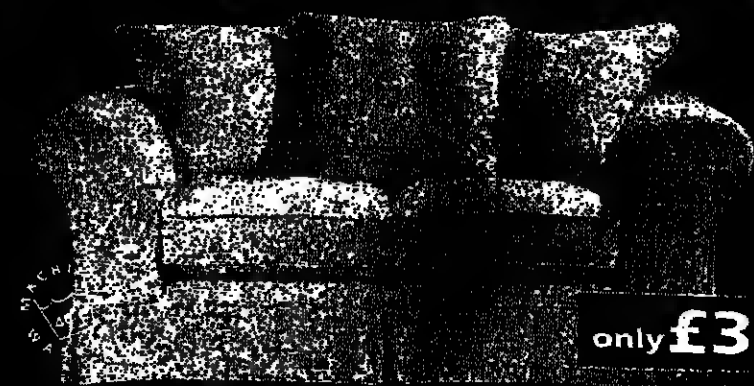
Melatonin levels were double in those suffering the disease and higher than in those who had been suffering from CFS but were improving.

Daily melatonin levels in the group suffering from active symptoms also remained raised for longer.

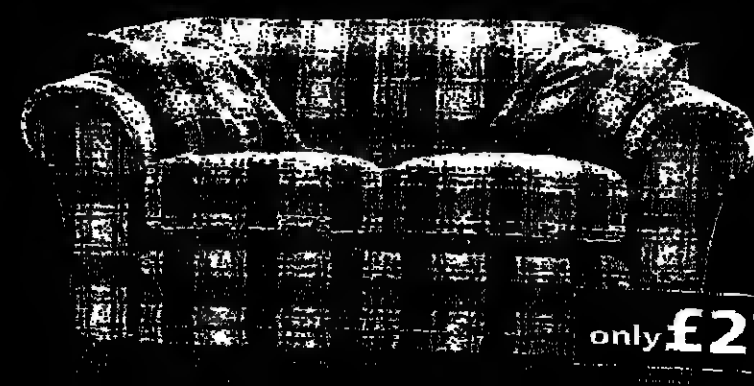
Although there could be a psychological element to CFS, this suggests it is that people who suffer from it have an overactive immune system," said Dr Soutzos. "It is rather like people who get gastric ulcers where psychology turns into biology."

Dr Soutzos said that CFS was distinct from depression, which is characterised by low levels of melatonin, and that hopefully their discovery would mean that CFS patients would no longer be wrongly diagnosed with depression.

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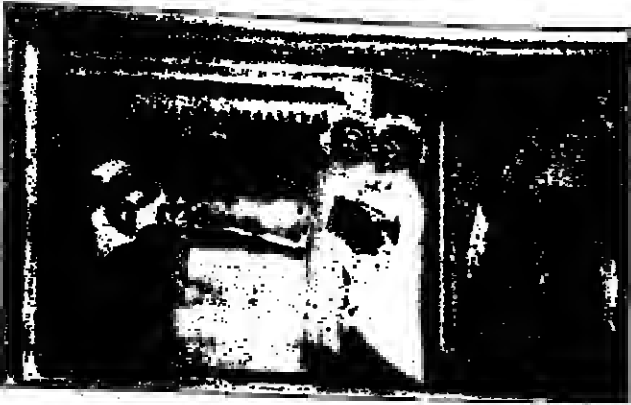
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Britain's pledge on Jewish art put to the test

A HUNGARIAN Jew whose father sent his £5m art collection to London for wartime safekeeping is fighting for compensation from the British government who then sold it.

The story of Gabor Bedo and his father, Rudolf, is set to prove a serious problem for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). He will test the promise made earlier this year by Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, to make amends for mistakes made in dealing with Jewish assets after the war.

The details of the Bedo art collection, discovered in an investigation by the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) and the BBC's *Newsnight* programme, suggest that the scale of the compensation demands could be enormous.

Thousands of Jews lodged

property and accounts in Britain during the Second World War. But under the Trading with the Enemy Act, property of all residents of enemy or enemy-occupied countries was frozen. Rudolf Bedo, like thousands of other Eastern European Jews trapped behind the Iron Curtain after the war, was too terrified of being accused of being a traitor by the Communists to contact the West and claim his collection.

"He dared not take steps because he knew that if he was suspected to have connections with the West he would be suspected of being a spy," Gabor Bedo told the BBC.

When the British government heard nothing, his property was sold at auction at Phillips in 1955, raising £4,500 -

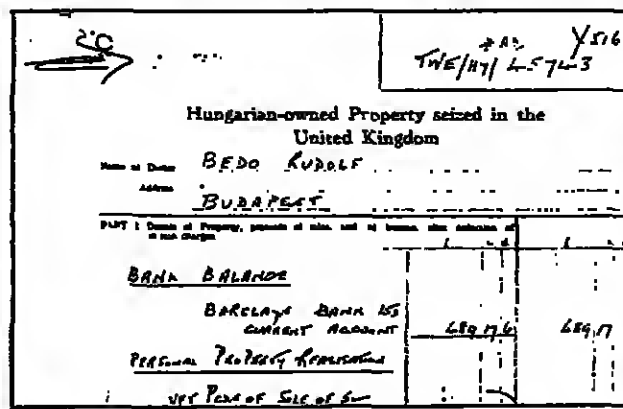
a Renoir went for £10. Soaring prices means the collection could be worth £5m at today's prices, according to the HET.

Rudolf was "most sorry" when he learnt that the collection had been sold, his son said. He added: "It was not only the worth of it. It was built by him and put together, a beautiful collection was ruined by the fact that it was confiscated."

"He could not understand that a democratic country like England could confiscate a fortune of a person who was a Jew, was persecuted by the Nazis and by the Soviets, the Communists. How was this possible? We looked to England as the country where there is absolute freedom for everyone."

By the time the Communists fell, Rudolf was dead. In 1990, Gabor wrote from Hungary to the repository in London to inquire what had happened to the works. He was told there was no trace of them. Then earlier this year, Gabor, 67, contacted the HET in London and an investigation began.

Hours of research in art and auction archives finally re-



vealed that one picture, Luca Giordano's *St John of Capistrano Appearing to a Franciscan Monk*, had been exhibited for sale in 1956 by the Colnaghi gallery in Mayfair, London.

The trust wrote to the gallery asking how they came

by the work, and their records showed that it was bought at the 1955 auction. The sale catalogue included 70 works from the Bedo collection.

Eight other works turned up which had been sold in the Sixties and Seventies. Some

had made six-figure sums in Europe and the United States.

One 14th-century painting by Matteo de Pacino was given to the North Carolina Museum of Art in 1961 and is on public display. Another 14th-century panel, attributed to Jacopo di Cione, was exhibited in the late Eighties by the Colnaghi gallery. It is still stored by the gallery and is worth more than £100,000.

A DTI spokesman said that all cases like Mr Bedo's would be examined by an independent assessor, Lord Archer of Sandwell, a former chairman of Amnesty International, was yesterday appointed to the post. The claims procedure would "be based on the principle that confiscated assets placed in the UK by victims of Nazi persecution should be returned to them, where practicable and where claims can be validated".

Killer can sell rhino haul

BY MIKE TAYLOR

AN ANTIQUES dealer who is nearing the end of a life sentence in jail for murdering his wife was yesterday handed back his retirement nest egg - a collection of rhino horns that is expected to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Wilfred Bull, 62, won a ruling from the Court of Appeal that the collection of antique horns - which was acquired legitimately - should never have been confiscated when he was convicted of trying to sell it in a conspiracy run from his prison cell.

Bull had expected the 128 horns - one of the largest collections of its type in the world - to raise about £2.5m in a world market dominated by oriental buyers who sell powdered rhino horn as an aphrodisiac.

At the time that he launched his abortive attempt to sell the horns - with the help of his friends and contacts - the international trade in rhino horn was banned except for dealers with special exemption certificates.

But the strict rules laid down by the 1985 Control of Trade in Endangered Species Act were eased last year, allowing dealings in white rhino horn from South Africa.

This means that Bull, who hopes to be freed from his murder sentence after his next parole hearing in August, can now lawfully auction off at least 30 per cent of his collection - and look forward to a comfortable life with his girlfriend, Carol Scotchford-Hughes, 50.

In their ruling yesterday, three appeal judges held that Bull should not have been ordered to forfeit the horns, which were all over 30 years old and had been collected legitimately before the 1985 Act came into force.

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Saddam turns on his holy enemies

ON THE NIGHT of 18 June, Ayatollah Mirza Ali al-Gharavi, a spiritual leader of the Iraqi Shia Muslims, failed to return to his home in Najaf in western Iraq from a visit to the tomb-shrine in the holy city of Kerbala. His son became worried. He drove to Kerbala 60 miles to the north. Approaching the city he saw a bullet-riddled car beside the road. Inside were the bodies of his father, brother-in-law and their driver.

"The bodies were washed and hurried immediately," says an Iraqi who is conversant with the case. "The police were not interested in an autopsy, blood samples, investigating the time of death or anything else."

There was no mention of Ayatollah Gharavi's murder in the Iraqi press or on television. When his death was finally confirmed in Baghdad on Saturday the Ministry of Religious Affairs blamed it on "malicious foreign-based elements".

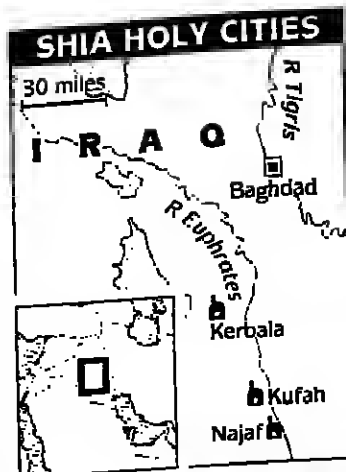
It was the third such murder of a senior Shia Muslim cleric opposed to the government in Iraq in four years. Two months ago Ayatollah Murtadha Borujerdi was shot dead by an assassin as he walked to his home in Najaf on the evening of 21 April after praying in the shrine of Imam Ali, whose golden dome and minarets rise above the roofs of the holy city.

Four years ago, in 1994, in the first of this string of murders, Sayid Mohammed Taqi al-Khoie, died in a car crash in similar circumstances to Gharavi. He also was returning to Najaf from the shrine at Kerbala when his car crashed into a truck just outside a large tyre factory. He was killed with three companions. Witnesses say the driver of the lorry had been waiting for him and pulled out into the road at the last minute. They add that the police would not allow the injured to be taken to hospital for hours.

Iraqi Shia leaders abroad say Iraqi security arranged the murders with the aim of taking over the leadership of Shia mosques and shrines. More than half the Iraqi population are Shia Muslim, while the government of Saddam Hussein is predominantly Sunni Muslim, whose adherents make up a quarter of the population. The government in Baghdad sees the Shia leadership as a potentially dangerous form of competition.

"Our institutions are based on popular support," says Yusuf al-Khoie of the al-Khoie Foundation, a charitable organisation in London. "They are funded by the people through religious dues and they have international support." He says that Iraqi government-backed

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Kerbala



The three holy Shia cities (top), and Saddam Hussein

clergy have not been able to get people to come to their mosques.

The struggle between Shia and Sunni Muslims has been at the heart of Iraqi politics since Britain decided to create one country out of three Turkish provinces in the Mesopotamian plain in 1920. Captain Arnold Wilson, the senior British civilian official in Baghdad at the time, warned that the Shia majority would not accept the rule of the Sunni minority, but "no form of government has yet been envisaged which does not involve Sunni domination."

Control of the holy cities of Kerbala, Najaf and Kufa, between the desert and the Euphrates south west of Baghdad, is important for the

government. Not only were they at the heart of the uprising which engulfed southern Iraq in 1991 in the wake of the Gulf war, but they are revered by 130 million Shia Muslims across the world as the site of the events which are at the centre of the Shia faith.

It was in Kufa in 661AD that Ali, the son-in-law and cousin of the Prophet Mohammed, was assassinated. He was later buried in Najaf. Nineteen years later his sons, Hussein and Abbas, were massacred at Kerbala with 72 companions in a battle whose elements of betrayal, sacrifice, martyrdom and atonement are similar to Christian beliefs about the Crucifixion. Pilgrims from across the Islamic world have visited all three cities for a thousand years.

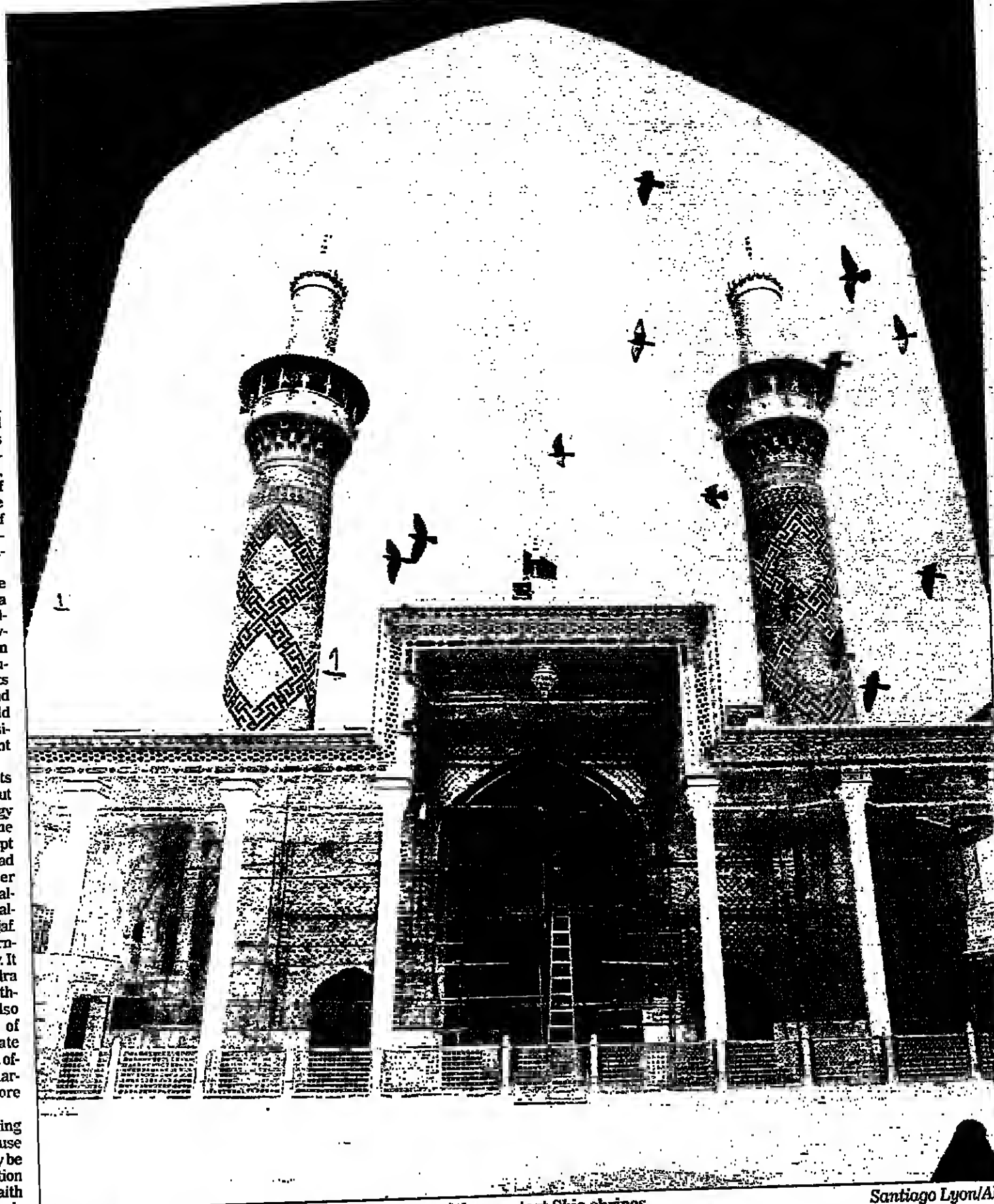
Since the 1970s the ruling Baath party in Baghdad, Sunni, secular and nationalist, has tried to suppress Shia practices. Shia clerics were executed and celebration of Ashura, the ritual mourning for the death of Hussein, was banned. Since the brutal suppression of the uprising of 1991 even secular Shia in Iraq increasingly identify with their religious faith.

The struggle which followed the uprising, in which many Shia mosques and schools were demolished, has revolved around the government's efforts to put its own quisling clergy in positions of authority. In particular it wanted its own candidate to replace Grand Ayatollah al-Khoie, the 92-year-old Shia cleric, who had held the position of Marja, the Shia equivalent of Pope, until he died in 1992.

The government tried to install its own candidate as Grand Marja, but without success. The official clergy were regarded as quislings by the Shia faithful, who refused to accept them as prayer leaders. Instead Ayatollah Ali Seestani took over and led the prayers inside the al-Khadra or Green Mosque where al-Khoie is buried in the shrine at Najaf.

In the spring of 1994 the government seemed to change its policy. It permanently closed the al-Khadra mosque for repairs - although nothing was wrong with it. It may also have covertly adopted a policy of sending death squads to eliminate senior Shia clerics. Government officials warned Borujerdi and Gharavi against leading prayers before they died.

Ali Seestani, now the leading Shia cleric in Najaf, is under house arrest. His followers fear he may be the next to die. But an assassination campaign against leaders of a faith which so venerates martyrdom is unlikely to succeed.



The courtyard of the Abbas mosque in Kerbala, one of the greatest Shia shrines

Santiago Lyon/AP

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Israelis play for time with referendum

ISRAELI JUSTICE minister and legal advisers were yesterday exploring ways of holding a referendum on a West Bank troop withdrawal.

The step would delay a pull-back for many months and was immediately denounced by the Palestinians as a new stalling tactic.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has not yet decided whether to hold a referendum, which would be the first held in Israel and would require changes in the nation's basic law.

Israel's left-wing opposition said the country committed itself to the withdrawals in international agreements and that Mr Netanyahu had no right to submit the issue again to a referendum.

The referendum idea also runs counter to appeals by Bill Clinton's administration for Mr Netanyahu to accept quickly a US proposal for an Israeli withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank.

The pull-back plan was proposed in January and has been accepted by the Palestinians. Since then Mr Netanyahu has ignored informal deadlines set by Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State.

Ties between Israel and the US were further strained last week when the Israeli cabinet approved a plan for the expansion of Jerusalem.

Under the peace accords, the status of Jerusalem is to be determined in negotiations with the Palestinians, and both sides pledged not to make changes on the ground in the meantime. The US called Israel's expansion plan "provocative."

Confusion remained yesterday over what exactly had been approved by the cabinet with regards to Jerusalem.

It was thought that the cabinet had decided on

BY KARIN LAUB
in Jerusalem

territorial expansion, but had not specified whether the city boundaries would be extended into Israel proper, the West Bank or into both, newspapers said.

Ezer Weizman, the Israeli President, also complained that he was misled by the Prime Minister.

Mr Weizman was quoted as saying Netanyahu had given him reason to believe that a West Bank withdrawal would be carried out, but that this was no



Benjamin Netanyahu: 'is ignoring deadlines'

longer the case.

Recent surveys indicate that about two-thirds of the Israeli public supports the US proposal for the Israelis pulling back from 13 per cent of the West Bank.

In another provocation to West bank Palestinians, Jewish settlers yesterday took possession of a home in Jerusalem's Arab neighbourhood of Silwan, just outside the walled Old City.

The settlement movement Elad said that it had bought the home, and that it planned to move into four others in the

IN BRIEF

Clinton renews tobacco battle

FRUSTRATED BY the defeat of tobacco legislation, President Bill Clinton is to instruct the government to take annual surveys to chart which cigarette brands are favoured by underage smokers, a US official said.

The move reflects Mr Clinton's disappointment at the defeat of landmark tobacco legislation last week as well as his desire to show the tobacco industry and its allies in Congress he has not given up the fight against youth smoking.

Imelda Marcos in danger

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT Fidel Ramos ordered tighter security for former first lady Imelda Marcos and her children yesterday after Communist rebels threatened to seize them for "crimes to the people." President Ramos told reporters that he had instructed government agencies to "monitor, pre-empt and counter these published threats."

Russian deaths blamed on drink

FIFTY-FOUR PEOPLE drowned in Moscow lakes and rivers last week and two-thirds of them were drunk, the Interfax news agency reported. Two-thirds of the victims also died in waters where swimming is banned, the city ambulance service said.

Call to jail National Front activist

A FRENCH state prosecutor yesterday asked a court to jail an activist of the anti-immigrant National Front for 20 years for the murder of a French teenager of African origin. Robert Lagier, 66, has admitted shooting Ibrahim Ali, 17, of Comorian descent, in Marseille three years ago. Lagier said he acted in self-defence.

Viagra wins Swiss approval

SWISS AUTHORITIES have approved the sale of the potency pill Viagra, adding Switzerland to San Marino and Andorra as European countries where the drug can be bought legally. A prescription will, however, be needed. Manufacturer Pfizer has said it expects approval for sale in the 15-nation European Union early next year.

Criminals' \$7bn profit from women

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, said yesterday that trafficking in women was a growing global problem. She was speaking during a Budapest conference aimed at addressing the trade. UN figures showed that as many as four million people are smuggled into foreign countries each year, generating up to \$7bn in profits for criminal syndicates.

Botha makes mind up over wife

A FEW MONTHS ago, the former South African President P.W. Botha was engaged to a woman 34 years his junior. Mr Botha yesterday got married - to a different woman. Mr Botha last year became engaged to Reinette Te Water Naude, but dumped her because she was seeing another man. The new woman in Botha's life is Barbara Robertson, 57, a legal secretary. The couple were wed in

هكذا من الأصل



Members of the Colombian army take up positions against the left-wing guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia near Villavicencio. The rebels mounted roadblocks and forced passengers to dismount before burning 29 buses

Gonzalez to face grilling on hit squads

MARKING the high point of the most eagerly awaited trial in more than 20 years of Spanish democracy, former prime minister Felipe Gonzalez takes the stand this morning to tell the Supreme Court what he knows about a dirty war waged against Eta Basque separatists in the early 1980s.

For years, Mr Gonzalez insisted he knew nothing about illegal undercover hit squads, organised, armed and funded by the Spanish interior ministry soon after his Socialist government came to power.

Mr Gonzalez's appearance before 11 Supreme Court judges marks a watershed, 15 years after the anti-terrorist Liberation Groups, the Gal, launched a spate of kidnappings, torture and assassinations in a desperate attempt to crush Basque separatist terrorism.

Of the 27 killed by Gal mercenaries, perhaps half were not terrorists, Eta sympathisers or even Basque.

Despite his denials, suspicions about Mr Gonzalez's possible involvement produced the most serious and persistent scandal of his 14-year government and contributed greatly to his defeat in the elections in March 1996.

He has since stepped down as Socialist party leader, but he appears on the point of pitching for the presidency of the European Commission to succeed Jacques Santer next year.

Mr Gonzalez himself has not been charged. The main man in the prosecutor's sights is his former interior minister, Jose Barriomueve, who faces 23 years in jail if he is found guilty of the charges of belonging to an armed group, kidnapping, and misappropriating public funds.

But it would be inconceivable for Mr Gonzalez to be considered seriously for an important international post if his political record was not considered squeaky clean.

BY ELIZABETH NASH in Madrid

cal record was not considered squeaky clean.

The case against Mr Barriomueve, his deputy, Rafael Vera, and a clutch of security chiefs and policemen who masterminded law and order operations in Spain for years, focuses on the Gal's first acknowledged action, the botched kidnap of a French businessman in December 1983.

The mercenaries who seized Segundo Marey realised within hours that they had the wrong man - they mistook him for an Eta leader - but he was held blindfolded in a ruined farmhouse in northern Spain for 10 days before being dumped across the border in France.

Mr Barriomueve insists he is innocent of any illegal anti-terrorist activities, but, strangely, he said he would consider taking the rap if his subordinates were pardoned.

Nine co-defendants admit taking part in Gal actions - some have been convicted for other Gal crimes - but say they were following interior ministry orders.

At least one alleges that Mr

Gonzalez was kept fully informed. Mr Barriomueve's willingness to take responsibility could rebound against Mr Gonzalez. If the former interior minister is found guilty, might not the finger point to his boss?

Meanwhile, in Brussels, Mr Gonzalez's supporters are moving quietly into action.

His reputation in Europe is based on his leading Spain into the EU in 1986, sealing the country's transition to democracy.

Four years ago, Helmut Kohl urged him to accept the job as Commission president, but Mr Gonzalez instead fought unsuccessfully for a fifth term as Spain's prime minister.

The former Commission president Jacques Delors has proposed that parties nominate their preferred candidate before the European parliament elections next June. The Socialists are by far the strongest group and Mr Gonzalez is well placed to be their choice.

The appointment is likely to be made at the EU summit in June 1999, chaired by Germany, where either Mr Kohl or his possible socialist successor Gerhard Schroeder would give Mr Gonzalez a fair wind.



Gonzalez: always denied knowledge of hit-squads

Two million displaced in a tropical version of Bosnia

IT COULD be the Garden of Eden. Our horses' hooves ring on the stones of the bridleway and splash through the fords as we ride under the canopy of bamboo and trees and admire the distant mountain views. The air is warm, the children are playing in the little river and the birds are singing.

But this is not the Garden of Eden. This is a tropical version of Bosnia, where 2 million people are displaced in the greatest current disaster in the Western Hemisphere. A group of peasants are making their regular trip up to the village of La Unión and the lands they left in fear a year ago. As we ride by, they point to a grassy knoll where a blood-stained shirt hangs listlessly in the heat. That is the grave of three men recently assassinated by the local death squad. A mile further on a single Wellington boot identifies the otherwise unmarked grave of a fourth.

We are on our way from San José de Apartadó, a village of about 900 people which a year ago was bold enough to declare peace in a country which has been at war with itself since 1948. Early last year the people announced that they would no longer collaborate with the army, or the paramilitary death squads or the guerrillas whose daily battles for control of land have made this region the bloodiest in Colombia and a prime reason for the displaced people. As the villagers proclaimed their "peace community", they even promised they

BY HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY in Urabá, Colombia

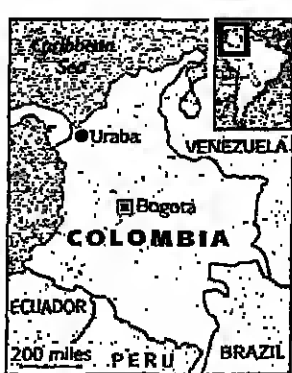
would give up carrying guns themselves.

In the square in San José where they dry the fat, purple cocoa beans, the walls are painted with crosses and the words, "Comunidad de Paz", Peace Community, and a gang of men is at work to finish a garden and a fountain paid for by the British government. They have been helped to keep going with aid from Oxfam.

But despite foreign help they have paid a fearful price for their contrary and awkward pacifism. Forty-six of the villagers, 5 per cent of the population, have been killed over the year Six were murdered by the guerrillas or their allies. The rest are the victims of the "paramilitary" death squads. As a clear and deliberate strategic option the Colombian army has passed on the job of assassinating those considered to be enemies of the state, since they can do anonymously the dirty work that would otherwise be traced to identifiable military units.

"The paramilitaries and the army collaborate in massacres," says Javier Giraldo, a prominent human rights campaigner. But the armed forces have not gone to sleep; the sounds of Colombian air force bombers and the army's artillery commonly resound around the mountains.

The villagers, however, have not allowed hope to die as they



load their packhorses with sacks containing a hundred banana plants which, with luck, will bear a crop in a few months. As we arrive in La Unión, the plants are unloaded and one or two men go to inspect the onions they had previously sown in neat lines in the deserted gardens of the ravaged and abandoned houses.

"This is the place where I used to go to school," says Juan, a boy of about 10 who has come up with us. He shows off a set of bullet-marked huts, doors hanging off their hinges, exercise books scattered and rotting walls bearing the dreaded signature ACCU. These are the initials of the principal group of death squads, the Peasant Defence Force of Córdoba and Urabá, a singularly ill-named body which is in fact run by the local landowners.

The ACCU was probably responsible for the graves we passed on the way up. Despite the government's protests that

it is hunting the well-known leaders of ACCU they remain at liberty, in contact with officials and, according to revelations by senior army officers themselves, in close operational co-ordination with the forces of the state.

In this region few narcotics are grown or traded and the misconception and disastrously organised "war of drugs", which is routinely and inaccurately blamed for Colombia's troubles, plays little part in the pervasive violence. The root of the problem has nothing at all to do with marijuana or cocaine but is a political battle which has been raging for 50 years - since well before the drugs boom.

In this battle the Colombian establishment has consistently blocked calls for a reform and a fairer society, while the groups on the left have resorted to arms. The 2 million displaced civilians have few links to the drug barons or to the armed left. They are almost all innocent victims.

The collaboration of the army with the death squads is evident. The rough road which is the only route for vehicles into this region is guarded by a military checkpoint where soldiers check the Jeeps and the broken down buses, confiscating all but the barest essentials lest, they argue, supplies are passed onto the guerrillas. A sergeant warns me to be careful of my life in what, he says, is dangerous bandit territory, and his men go

through our luggage and the villagers' purchases in town.

A few hundred metres on, in full view of the military checkpoint, is another checkpoint where the death squads operate. "If the soldiers find a person they want to eliminate when they search the Jeeps and the buses they let him pass through," explains one villager. "They radio up to the paramilitaries at the second checkpoint and the death squads do the necessary."

In the Colombian maelstrom the army is part of the problem, not part of the solution.

Colombia votes 'to regain dignity'

THE ELECTION of conservative challenger Andres Pastrana ended the ruling Liberal Party's 12-year lock on the Colombian presidency and is likely to improve the image of a country battered by a drug corruption scandal.

"My foreign policy will aim to restore Colombians' lost dignity, to regain the respect that our people deserve in the international community so that once again we can be proud to pronounce Colombia's name in all corners of the world," Mr Pastrana said last Sunday in his victory speech.

With 98 per cent of the vote counted in the runoff election, the 44-year-old former Bogotá

BY STEVEN GUTKIN

mayor, in his second straight bid for the highest office, had won 50.4 per cent versus 48.5 per cent for the Liberals' Horacio Serpa. Voter turnout was 54 per cent.

Mr Serpa served as interior minister under the outgoing president Ernesto Samper, who was accused of accepting campaign contributions from the Cali drug cartel. The scandal crippled Mr Samper's four-year tenure and likely doomed Mr Serpa's presidential hopes.

However, the Liberal candidate's populist rhetoric and lower middle-class upbringing helped win the favour of mil-

lions of Colombians who viewed Mr Pastrana, son of the late president Misael Pastrana, as the candidate of the rich.

Last Sunday, Mr Pastrana promised to better the lot of 18 million Colombians who live in poverty. "I'm going to be the president of the poor," he said. "I don't want any more hunger in Colombia."

Mr Pastrana inherits a nation mired in political and economic crises. Leftist rebels took advantage of Mr Samper's weak government to expand their influence and now control 40 per cent of the countryside. Right-wing death squads killed scores of people, and unemployment climbed.

Mr Pastrana promised to make peace his top priority and meet personally with guerrilla leaders.

Compared with previous elections, Sunday's balloting took place in relative peace. Guerrillas attacked two helicopters and ambushed a police truck in two incidents, killing two police officers and wounding six, officials said. Since Friday, guerrillas have kidnapped at least 11 election officials and burned 57 vehicles nationwide.

United States officials had refrained from supporting either of the two candidates. But privately, they acknowledged that a Pastrana victory would be better for US-Colombia relations.

Argentina bill threatens Falklands oil deal

BRITAIN FEARS that a draft bill in Argentina's Congress could harm a delicate deal on oil exploration off the Falklands, designed to let both sides benefit without compromising sovereignty claims.

William Marsden, who before becoming British ambassador to Argentina was London's chief negotiator in the oil talks, has expressed concern that the bill was contrary to the 1995 bilat-

BY STEPHEN BROWN

eral deal on South Atlantic oil. The 1995 deal was an "agreement to disagree" on Falklands sovereignty, which Argentina has claimed since 1833. The oil deal, signed by President Carlos Menem's Peronist government in 1993, despite opposition including from many in his own party, provided a framework for exploration in one of

the world's last unexplored sedimentary basins.

It allowed for the Falklands to claim 9 per cent oil royalties on any oil eventually pumped and Argentina 3 per cent, without either side's sovereignty claim to be compromised.

But the start of drilling in April by an American company, Amerada Hess, sparked protest from Argentina that the company was abiding by the Falk-

lands' rules and not by Argentina's.

Mr Marsden defended the oil deal, saying it was "already bringing benefits to both countries." But he said Britain was concerned that if the congress passes the hydrocarbons bill, it would act against the 1995 deal.

"Our overriding concern is that the arrangements that are put into effect are compatible with the agreement," he said.

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14/FOREIGN NEWS

Ambassadors leave Belarus in the cold

LOATHED BY the West and regarded as an even by his friends in Moscow, President Alexander Lukashenko led Belarus into still deeper isolation yesterday as ambassadors from seven countries, including Britain, flew out of the former Soviet republic.

The US and Japan joined five European Union countries in withdrawing their envoys "for consultations" to protest over their eviction from their diplomatic residences by the virulently anti-western leader.

The 15-nation EU underlined its anger with President Lukashenko - a former director of a collective farm who once spoke admiringly of Hitler - by asking his ambassadors to leave their countries. Even Russia, Belarus's close but uneasy ally, has sharply criticised the president, although its envoy will remain.

The row blew up over the decision by Belarus to oust 22 am-

By PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

bassadors from their homes in a wooded compound near Minsk, ostensibly to carry out repairs to the sewage system. Suspicions abound that the president wants the compound - where he also lives - for his cronies. The diplomats were told they could not return after the work's completion.

When the envoys protested that the eviction violated the Vienna Convention, the president stepped up the pressure by turning off the electricity gas and water. A ditch was also dug preventing cars from entering - an inconvenience which the French ambassador avoided by using a bicycle.

The decision, which some western observers have compared with Stalin's efforts to oust the US and British ambassadors from their lush Moscow residences in 1952,

has been greeted with outrage by the diplomats. But it is typical of the president's attention-seeking behaviour. German ambassador Horst Winkelman called it "incomprehensible and sad". Japan's envoy said it was "very hurtful".

But the EU also made clear that the withdrawal of its ambassadors did not mean that its envoys would be gone indefinitely. Before driving in a convoy of diplomatic cars to the airport, flags fluttering, to board a flight to Frankfurt, the EU ambassadors drank a champagne toast outside the British Embassy "to an early return".

Jessica Pearce, the British ambassador, said that they wanted to show Mr Lukashenko "that he cannot treat us in the way that he expects to be able to treat anyone in his country" - a reference to his ruthlessly repressive record, which has included jailing his opponents, closing op-

position newspapers, seizing control of the judiciary, and disbanding an elected parliament. She said their withdrawal was for a "cooling-off period" and she hoped to return soon.

Eight countries have now pulled out of Belarus, but others have indicated they will soon follow suit.

Although Belarus has protested its innocence and accused the West of "over-reacting" and playing politics, the affair has served as a reminder of the president's relish for trouble-making, which he has exhibited regularly since his arrival in power in 1994.

The US still deeply resents the death of two American pilots whose balloon was shot down over Belarussian territory in 1996. His period in office has been characterised by economic stagnation, human rights abuses and a referendum that illegally lengthened his period in office.



British ambassador Jessica Pearce prepares to join the convoy of diplomats leaving Minsk

Sergei Grits

Yeltsin fears rise of Nazis in Russia

PRESIDENT BORIS Yeltsin yesterday warned of a worrying neo-Nazi trend emerging in Russia and urged Russians to prevent a revival of "the plague of the 20th century".

"Half a century ago our country saved the world from fascism, but today it is in Russia that it is rearing its head," he said in a radio address to mark 57 years since Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union. More than 25 million Soviet citizens were killed in the Second World War.

After decades of virulent anti-Nazi propaganda by the Soviet authorities, Russia had considered itself immune from Nazism. But the hardships brought about by economic reforms launched after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, and a lack of liberal traditions have created conditions in which radical groups, including neo-Nazis, have flourished.

Some extremist groups have adopted symbols strongly reminiscent of the Nazi swastika and Mr Yeltsin said teenagers, enchanted by the military insignia, were trying on black uniforms like those of the Nazi SS.

"Again one hears calls for a firm hand and draconian discipline. To some this seems to be the best way out of the present far from simple situation," Mr Yeltsin said. "Using lofty

By PHILIPPA FLETCHER
in Moscow

words about the revival of Russia and its national spirit as a cover, again a search is on for an enemy to humiliate, herd into prisons and execute."

An opinion poll conducted among 6,000 people across Russia at the beginning of June by the Institute for the Sociology of Parliamentarism showed that 5 per cent viewed the activities of pro-fascist organisations in Russia positively. Almost one-third thought life would be better if they were surrounded by their own nationality.

The foreign community in Moscow has been alarmed by recent attacks on people of African and Asian origin. The rise of far-right politicians has raised fears of an ultra-nationalist regime. But only 11 per cent of those surveyed thought fascists could come to power soon while more than half were sure they would not.

"I am alarmed that the reality of the danger of extremism in Russia is not being felt by all," Mr Yeltsin said. "Will the Russians really allow the most terrible ideology ever known by mankind to take root in our land? It is our common duty to the memory of the victims of fascism to prevent a revival of the plague of the 20th century."

Number's up for Estrada

By STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

WHEN Joseph "Erap" Estrada, the former matinee idol and president-elect of the Philippines, won the presidency by a landslide in May he claimed it would be the "greatest performance of his life".

But it seems that Mr Estrada has been performing well in other ways, too - he is the father of 10 children, seven of whom are reported to be illegitimate.

The existence of his illegitimate children was no secret. What was in doubt was the number. Now a report in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* claims to have cleared up the matter. The newspaper says the seven illegitimate children belong to five different mothers.

Mr Estrada's transition team has been considering whether these illegitimate offspring should be treated as members of the first family, especially in terms of security.

Mr Estrada has cheerfully acknowledged a history of drinking, gambling and womanising, but he insists that this is all in the past.

Eloisa, his previously estranged wife, returned from almost 20 years in exile in the US to be reunited with her husband and they even managed a public kiss, at an open-air mass just before the poll.

The country's powerful



Estrada: unconventional

Catholic church establishment tried to prevent Mr Estrada from gaining the presidency, saying the office required an incumbent of high morals.

The Church's views clearly do not reflect those of the electorate, who seem unperturbed by the prospect of an unconventional president.

Illegitimate children are common in the Philippines and many middle-class men keep second and third families. Mr Estrada's lack of hypocrisy has earned him brownie points rather than brickbats.

One of his favourite lines is to say that both he and Bill Clinton have experienced sex scandals. The difference, he says, is that the US president is left with the scandals whereas Mr Estrada has the sex.

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Kosovo crisis comes to life on the stage

PROFESSOR RADOSLAV Stojanovic has a Tolstoy beard and volumes of poetry to his name. He is managing director of the National Theatre in Pristina. And he is a Serb. Aslan Hasaj is an actor and playwright and looks like Jean-Paul Sartre.

He once sat in Mr Stojanovic's office - until his dismissal in 1991. Mr Hasaj, you see, is an ethnic Albanian. He now works from a makeshift office in the theatre bar downstairs. Without a telephone.

So let's start upstairs, in Mr Stojanovic's opulent premises with its secretary, sofa and armchair, its massive desk, its two 19th century Italian ecclesiastical oil paintings and its native portrait of Tito's partisans liberating a Kosovo town.

It is from here that Mr Stojanovic - an appointee of the Serbian minister of culture in Belgrade - runs his 110 employees, who include 26 ethnic Albanian actors and 22 Serb actors. There are, he admits, more Serbs than Albanians in the theatre administration. "Albanians work more on the technical side - scenery, music, lighting and costume."

The administrative imbalance is suggested gently. So are the rules which are, in every sense of the word, theatrical. "Before I was appointed five years ago, the directors here decided to play only cultural plays. Politics had to be kept out of our theatre."

"The most important thing, you see, is the people's work - not their nationality. Perhaps this could be a model for a way of living here in Kosovo. Our drama productions take place individually - but we use the same administration and technique. All the players are friends in the bar downstairs."

At no point does Mr Stojanovic mention that the bar is also an office for Mr Hasaj. Nor, for that matter, does he mention

BY ROBERT FISK
in Pristina

Mr Hasaj. But he is in a generous humour. "Come along to our presentation of Gogol tonight," Mr Stojanovic insists with bright, cheerful eyes. "You'll see how much we love our drama."

And when I turn up to watch *The Government Inspector* at 7.30, there is a packed house; there are teenage lovers in the audience and parents with three-year-old children on their laps, all listening in pin-dropping silence to Gogol's story of Balkan-style corruption.

The audience are all Serbs. So are the highly-professional actors. The Albanians will perform tomorrow. But for those who believe that art crosses borders, that culture reaches across the sectarian divide, Kosovo's National Theatre is a lesson in brutal reality.

The Albanians are staging Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* and recently performed Strindberg's *The Father*. The Serbs have put on Alfred Jarry's painfully funny *King Ubu* - the story of a Milosevic-style dictator who is forced to dispose of every rival with the words "Open the trapdoor!"

What fascinates me, however, is Mr Stojanovic's division of art into plays "cultural" and plays "political". Had he not recently staged *Macbeth*? Wasn't this drama of a power-mad dictator who ethnically cleanses his rival's family and retainers a bit, well, political?

Not a bit of it. "There are no problems with Shakespeare or the classics," Mr Stojanovic says confidently. "In 1995, the Albanians wanted to put on Kasem Trebeshina's *The History of Those Who Are No Longer Here*. I read the text and didn't think it very creative. Even the title could have been

provocative. But I put the play on because the Albanian press were attacking us for not staging it."

But a visit to Aslan Hasaj casts a different reflection on Serbia's cultural life. He is not in his office bar tonight but in a dingy cafe under a motorway intersection.

"I am glad you have spoke to Mr Stojanovic and heard his side of the story," he says carefully.

"But I, too, was the legitimate director of the National Theatre of Kosovo until 4th January 1991. I was thrown out from my post then without any reason - when I refused to leave, they brought the police to order me out."

Mr Stojanovic was appointed much later - everything is now directed by the cultural administration in Belgrade which is run by Slobodan Milosevic. Now I have responsibility just for Albanian drama. It's my job to speak to Stojanovic - I do so on a professional basis, because in this way I can defend Albanian art. He is imposed on us."

So, one might add, is a form of censorship. The Albanians could produce *King Lear* and Moliere's *The Miser*. But according to Mr Hasaj, *Death Comes From Those Kind of Eyes* by Rexhep Qosja, *Digging up Bogdan* by Feki Dervishi and *The Victims of Tyror* by Ekrem Kryeziu - all Albanian plays - were not allowed a performance.

"We asked for a written reason for this but were never given one," Mr Hasaj says. "Last year, we wanted to stage Anton Pashku's *Sokol and Mirusha* - it's a play set in the Kosovo town of Prizren - about a Muslim and a Catholic who are in love but are destroyed by society. Just before our premiere, Stojanovic said we couldn't perform it."

It's easy to see why *Digging up Bogdan* didn't clear the censors: the play tells the story of a Christian intellectual who so angered the Serbs that they dug up his body and fed it to the dogs.

Although a few of the Serb actors attend Mr Hasaj's productions, the audiences are now ethnically 100 per cent divided. But he dreams dreams. "Our theatre is a real treasure and if I am ever the legitimate director again, I would insist that Serb drama is performed in my theatre. "But this depends on them as well as me. If you look at every play, the subject is about human beings and their destiny - theatre cannot be abstract because all plays have the same aim: to fight against wrong and to help humanity progress."

There is, needless to say, an irony in Mr Hasaj's life. He earns just over £100 from the Pristina theatre - but it comes from the coffers of the Serbian Ministry of Culture.

"It's paid by the ministry, yes," Mr Hasaj says. "But the ministry takes this money from my people in taxes." And I wonder if this wouldn't make an interesting equation for Mr Hasaj's next play.



A Serb performance of Gogol's 'The Government Inspector' at Pristina theatre
Robert Fisk

Banana to face sodomy trial

BY CHRIS CHINAKA

ZIMBABWE'S ex-president, Robert Mugabe, yesterday rejected charges of sodomy as "absolute nonsense" after his lawyer failed to get the case dismissed.

In his first court appearance the 62-year-old cleric said he had no idea why his former presidential staff and a gardener and job-seeker, whom he allegedly picked from the streets, were making the charges.

Mr Mugabe answered "never", "no" or "absolute nonsense" when he was asked whether he sodomised or tried to sexually attack his aides-de-camp, guards and cook, or offered dinner and drinks or

danced or slept with any of them. The High Court ruled that Mr Mugabe must defend himself against the sodomy charges after rejecting an application by his lawyer Chris Andersen that the case be dismissed for lack of credible evidence.

High Court Judge President Godfrey Chidyausiku said there was enough evidence on the table "for any reasonable court to convict" Mr Mugabe.

Mr Mugabe, Zimbabwe's first but largely ceremonial president after independence from Britain in 1980, was ordered to take the stand for the

first time since his trial opened three weeks ago. He has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault and denies he sexually attacked some of his staff in the 1980s.

The prosecution alleges that Mr Mugabe abused his authority and that there was a pattern in how he preyed on his victims.

Sodomy is illegal in Zimbabwe and punishment includes jail. The charges were compiled after complaints by one of his aides, Jetha Dube, 36, who was jailed for 10 years in February 1997 for the fatal shooting of a policeman who provoked him by calling him "Banana's wife".



ANDREW MARSHALL

'British journalists have been smirking at two scandals involving their American peers who made up quotes and events in articles'

TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

Serb troops battle to hold crucial roads

BY MARCUS TANNER

FIERCE FIGHTING erupted yesterday in Serbia's war-torn Kosovo province, as Albanian separatists and Serb troops battled for control of the two main roads leading west and south of the capital, Pristina.

Serb tanks were also spotted rumbling south out of Pristina. This is more confirmation, if any was needed, that Belgrade's so-called police operation against Albanian "terrorists" has failed to subdue the revolt against Serbian rule and is inevitably drawing in the Yugoslav army.

The worst fighting was centred on the town of Klin, 30 miles west of Pristina and the centre of the Albanian insurrection which erupted earlier this year.

Military analysts said the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was most likely to be attempting to create a corridor across the road, linking belts of territory that they hold north and south of this key communication artery. There were no reliable reports of casualties, though Albanian sources reported that army tanks were blasting at houses and farms in villages near Klin.

North of Pristina, exchanges of fire were reported between Serbs and Albanians in an ethnically-mixed village.

With every sign that the fighting is set to continue and perhaps intensify over the sum-

mer, Serbia's ally, Russia, yesterday urged the West not to put pressure on Belgrade to withdraw its police and troops from the province, which is one of the West's key demands.

In an interview on Russian television, Yevgeny Primakov, the foreign minister, said if Serbia was to withdraw its 40,000-strong security force, it might prompt an exodus of the entire Serbian population. "It will result in a flow of Serbian refugees, who will regard the move as a signal to leave," he said.

The Contact Group of major powers on former Yugoslavia, which comprises Russia, the United States, Britain, France and Germany, was due to meet to discuss the crisis in Kosovo tomorrow.

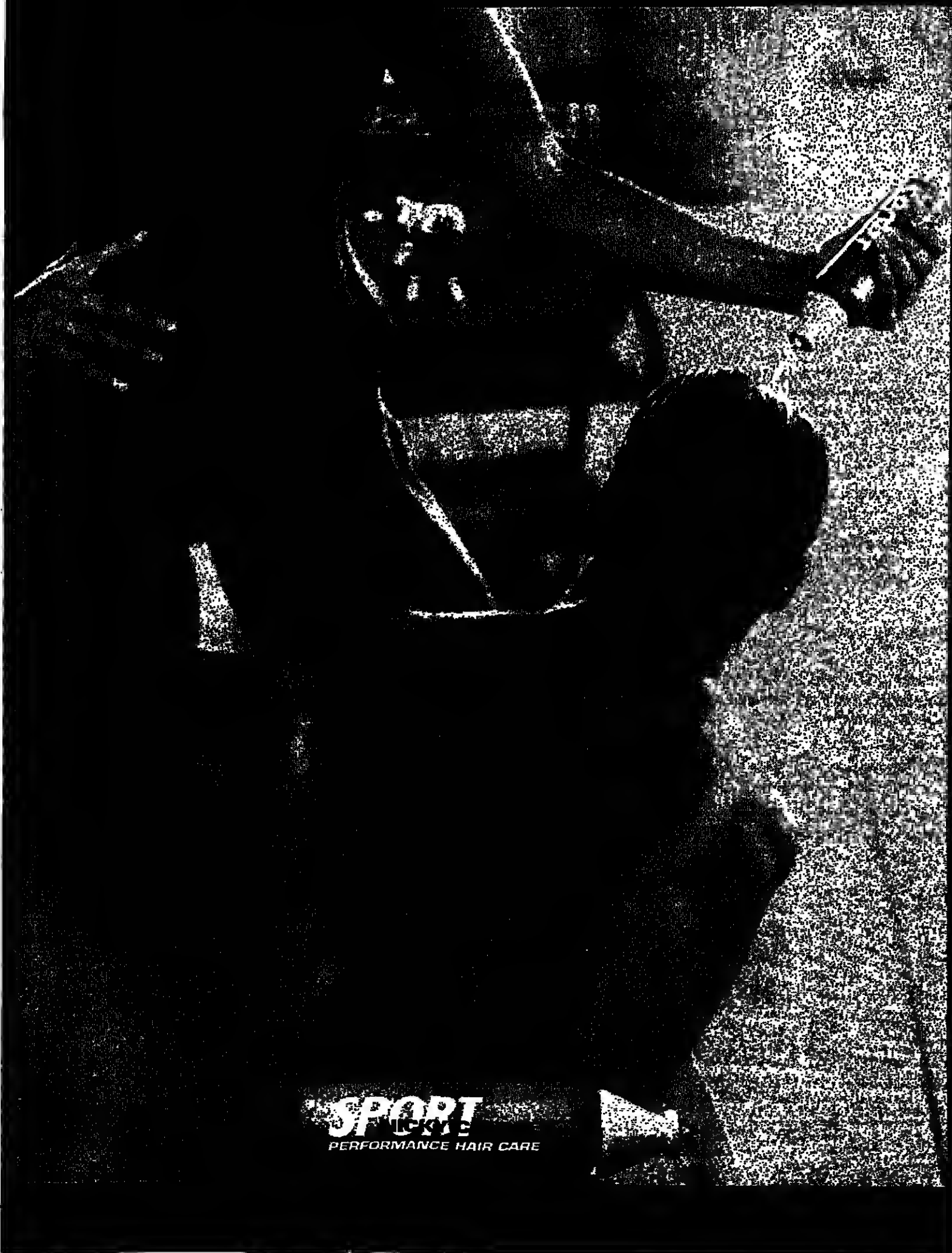
In Vienna, the Secretary General of Nato, Javier Solana, said the organisation had still not ruled out military intervention to halt the alleged Serbian "ethnic cleansing", which has sent tens of thousands of Albanians from western Kosovo flooding into neighbouring Albania.

"No option has been ruled out," he insisted. "We have to put a stop to this outrage". Ibrahim Rugova, the Kosovo Albanian leader, is expected to meet General Solana today. However, he has been marginalised by the militants of the KLA.

An armed fighter of the Kosovo Liberation Army walks through Tropoje, a small village on the Kosovo border which has become a centre for arms trafficking
Louisa Gouliamaki/Epca

Spoil Sport by Nicky Clarke.

The Rules. 1 Remove clothing. 2 Remove partner's clothing. 3 Grab a pack of Nicky Clarke Energy Boost Protein Shampoo from the new Spoil range. 4 Massage into wet hair the rich, nourishing combination of Pro Vitamin B5, Almond protein and minerals. 5 Rinse. 6 Enjoy. (Don't let anything get in your way).



Russia's old country ways are dying out

STREET LIFE
SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

AN EERIE silence has settled over Samotechny Lane. In the absence of the usual noise from the neighbours, birdsong can be heard in the inner-city street. The sun is scorching but the pavement is carpeted with what looks like a layer of snow. It's nothing out of the ordinary: just high summer in Moscow.

The "snow" is *puh*, a cotton wool-like substance released by the poplar trees in the parks. Old Communist bosses had them planted with the intention of beautifying the city, but failed to realise that the trees reproduce in a way that gives half of Muscovites an allergy. The fluff is also a fire hazard. Last week, 100 cars in tin garages were burnt out after a boy put a match to *puh*.

When the heat and the fluff become unbearable, there is a mass exodus and Moscow is abandoned to mad dogs and foreigners. The Russians go, as they have since Chekhov captured the delight and ennui of rural life, to a *dacha*, or cottage, in the country. The old elite have long had elegant

wooden mansions. "New Russian" businessmen have brick ranches with swimming pools. But most Russians have a *dacha* - a wooden hut on an allotment, rather like the place where my grandad grew rhubarb in the 1950s.

I am saved again from Moscow by my best friend, Vitaly Matveyev, who for the past three years has taken me to the village of Druzhba (meaning friendship), 200km south-east of Moscow.

Here, his father, Mikhail Alexeyevich, a retired factory worker, has a small house and garden among the allotments of fellow workers. The village is set in a glorious landscape of sunflower fields, birch woods and froggy ponds. Vitaly has access to this idyll, but I have the wheels to get us there.

The *dacha*, which old Mr Matveyev built himself, has two rooms - one up one down. On the wall of the sitting room

is a fresco of an Alpine scene, copied from a calendar. But the house has no running water - it is really a gardener's shelter.

Vitaly may come here for holidays but his father has spent his summers toiling on the land to grow crops, without which the family would not have survived the long Russian winters. Old Mikhail, born in the same year as Mikhail Gorbachov, has kept a diary with entries such as: "Weather hot, watered the cucumbers, that crotin in the Kremlin is wrecking the country."

Last summer, I was there when Mr Matveyev had a bumper crop of cherries. The old man spent hours picking the fruit. Had I not offered him a lift, he would have carried the cherries in a basket on his back 20km to Koloma, where he lives with Natasha, his daughter, and her family. I helped Natasha to make cherry jam, a ritual of the Russian summer.

These memories flood back as Vitaly and I arrive at the *dacha*. But the garden is overgrown. The old man is not there. He is dying of cancer at the age of 65 because, as he admits, he has "smoked and drunk like a real Russian" all his life. There is no hospital bed for him. He is dying at home, with Natasha caring for him and only vodka to kill the pain.

The *dacha* was allotted by the Communist state but is now the private property of the Matveyev family. It will be passed on to his children. But Vitaly lives far away in Moscow and Natasha, who has a successful sewing business, does not see herself spending her leisure time digging a vegetable patch and endlessly picking and bottling the crop.

For now, weeds are rampant in the garden and with the old man a whole Russian way of life is dying. A strange quiet has descended on the *dacha*, broken only by birdsong and the buzzing of insects. Nature is taking its course.

HELEN WOMACK



In summer, most Russians retreat to a 'dacha', a wooden hut on an allotment

Jeremy Nicholl/Kobz

Inquiry to seek truth of nerve gas claim

THE MANAGING editor of *Time* magazine, Walter Isaacson, has ordered an internal investigation into the truth of allegations that US troops used Sarin nerve gas to kill American defectors during the Vietnam war.

The allegations about Operation Tailwind, which was the subject of a high-profile CNN television documentary and an accompanying *Time* magazine article, have been increasingly challenged in the two weeks since they were aired.

They have also sown serious discord between the two arms of the Time-Warner empire.

In the programme, former servicemen testified on camera that they had seen mysterious gas canisters loaded on to a plane, the effect of which was to destroy the nerve functions of soldiers on the ground, and that special White House authorisation had been required for the operation.

The episode was said to have taken place in Laos in 1970 during the presidency of Richard Nixon.

Doubts about the claims surfaced immediately after the CNN documentary was broadcast.

Retired Admiral Thomas Moorer, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff at the time, insisted he had been misquoted and demanded a retraction. Senior journalists at *Time* also questioned the veracity of the allegations, loudly enough for the magazine to add a question-mark to the headline of its companion article.

Much rested on the success

of the project, however, which was a heavily promoted collaboration between CNN and *Time* magazine.

CNN programme-makers defended themselves vigorously. Reporters were said to have conducted more than 200 interviews for the project and to have carried out rigorous checks.

The Pentagon responded within hours of the broadcast, saying it had no knowledge of such an operation. Within 24 hours, however, it had instituted an inquiry, which is due to report in two weeks' time.

Successive military spokesmen suggested that if gas was used, it was most likely tear gas.

A rash of fierce press articles followed in which former officials and servicemen questioned the soundness of the allegations and the credibility of the chief accuser, Robert van Buskirk.

As the doubts multiplied, CNN broadcast a clarification of Admiral Moorer's words, but no retraction. It also adjusted its version to say the gas had been used as a last resort to rescue US troops from an ambush, dropping the most eye-catching but shocking charge that the attack was targeted at US defectors.

Meanwhile, the mood at *Time* was mutinous, with journalists still questioning the report - and, by implication, the standards of their television colleagues and the wisdom of the *Time*/CNN collaboration.

Nigeria's new leader 'meets' missing Abiola

NIGERIA'S new military leader has been holding secret talks with the country's best-known political prisoner, Chief Moshood Abiola, the apparent winner of the presidential elections in 1993, a Lagos newspaper has reported.

No one except the Nigerian leadership has known the chief's whereabouts for more than a year. He has been in prison since 1994.

The first meeting between General Abdulsalam Abubakar and Chief Abiola took place just hours after Abubakar was sworn in, following the death of Nigeria's former dictator,

General Sani Abacha, said the report.

The details of the talks were not revealed, but the general is said to have told Chief Abiola that the issue of his detention would be "resolved" soon.

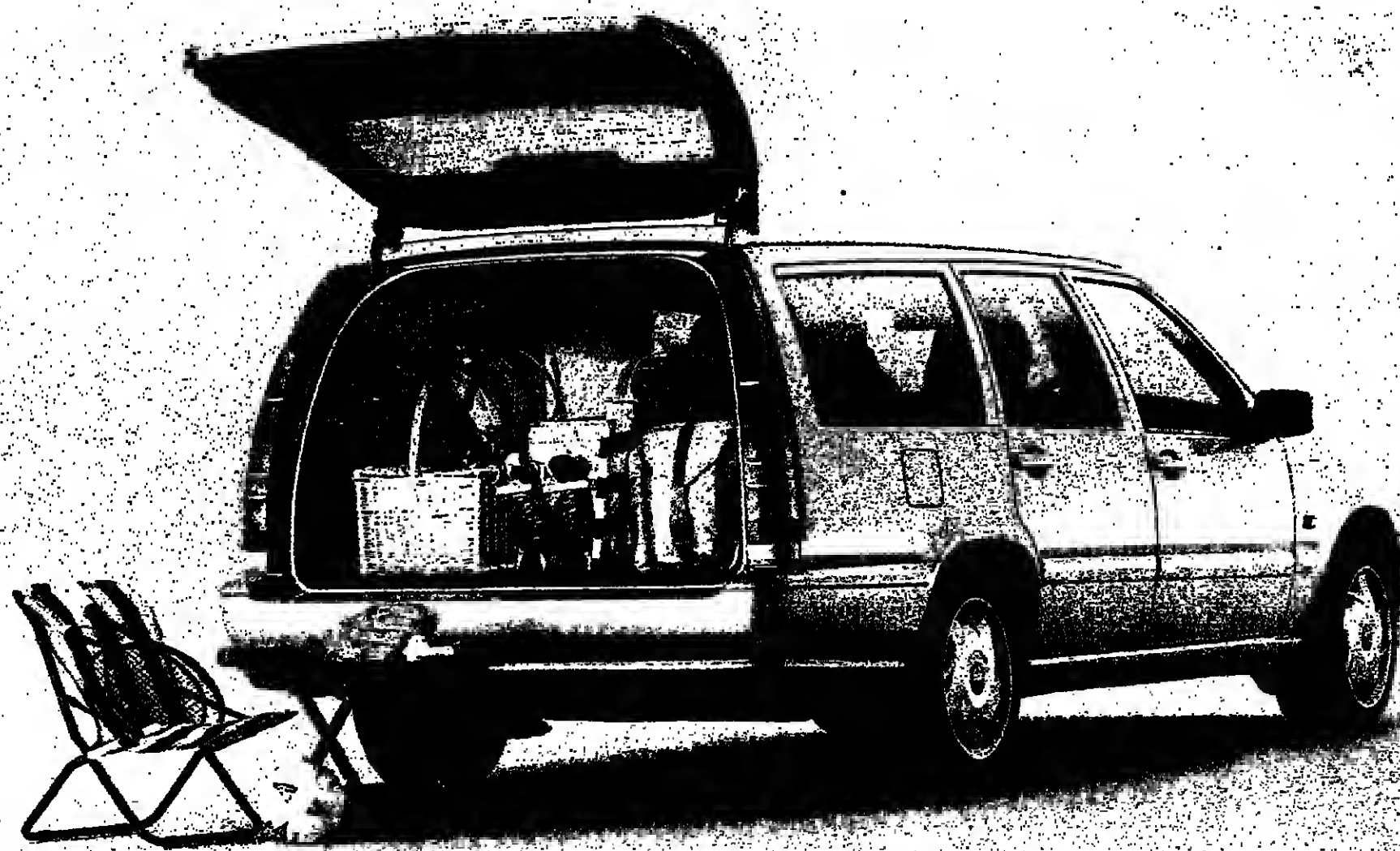
Chief Abiola was imprisoned when he declared himself president to commemorate the anniversary of the annulled elections, which he is believed to have won. Since then, his extensive business empire has largely collapsed.

One of Abiola's wives, Kudirat, was killed in 1996. She was an outspoken critic of Abacha, who took power in a 1993 coup.

DIANE COYLE

'For all the fanfare about how Britain's entrepreneurial culture has flourished, there are few of us making serious money out of it'

THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5



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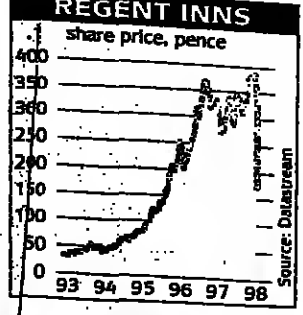
Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

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BRIEFING

Regent shares plunge on warning

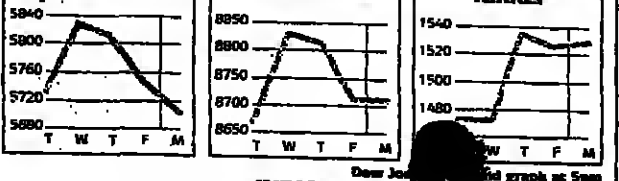


SHARES IN Regent Inns, the pubs group which owns 67 pubs, hotels and restaurants, fell 44 per cent to 176.5p after the group said it would miss City forecasts. Regent said that it had uncovered a number of "inconsistencies and inaccuracies in accounting treatments" totalling £1.7m. News Analysis, page 19

Mystery suitor for Save Group

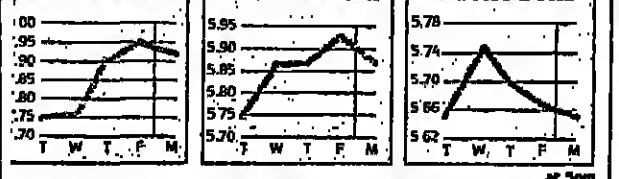
MYSTERY suitor is holding takeover talks with the Save Group, company chairman James Frost revealed yesterday. The stock shot up 20 per cent to 136.5p. But speculation that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) was in the frame to buy Save's petrol stations was ruled out by the Kuwaitis. Mr Frost, who personally holds a 4.5 per cent stake in Save, admits the talks are at an early stage but says they are serious. Save has been hit hard by a forecast price war caused by competition from supermarkets.

STOCK MARKETS



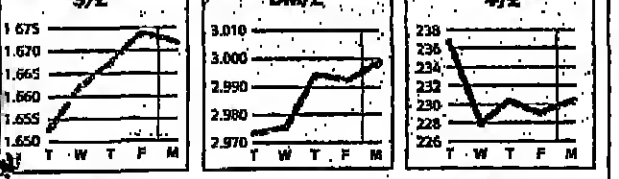
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5712.40	-35.70	-0.62	6150.00	4382.80	4.01
FTSE 250	5561.90	-36.60	-0.65	5970.90	4384.20	3.24
FTSE 350	2770.30	-17.50	-0.63	2940.10	2141.80	3.86
FTSE All Share	2708.74	-18.13	-0.67	2872.04	2106.59	3.82
FTSE SmallCap	2661.40	-33.40	-1.24	2793.80	2182.10	3.14
FTSE Predding	1456.40	-14.40	-0.99	1517.10	1225.20	3.14
FTSE AIM	1110.70	-8.50	-0.80	1146.90	965.90	1.16
FTSE EBLCC 100	1005.07	-3.52	-0.35			
Dow Jones	8710.13	-4.74	-0.05	9261.91	6971.32	1.64
Nikkei	15309.09	-41.11	-0.27	20910.79	14488.21	1.00
FTSE Seng	8204.21	-387.70	-4.51	16820.31	7351.68	4.99
FTSE	5654.75	-47.86	-0.84	5787.70	3467.24	2.86

INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES				BOND YIELDS			
Rate	3 month	6 month	1 year	Rate	10 year	30 year	Long bond
£	7.81	1.02	8.00	0.81	5.87	-1.25	5.45
\$	5.69	-0.09	5.81	-0.28	5.44	-0.98	5.65
¥	0.55	-0.06	0.60	-0.22	1.58	-1.05	2.09
Primary	3.56	0.44	3.89	0.62	4.78	-0.95	5.34

CURRENCIES



POUND				DOLLAR			
Rate	at Spot	Change	Yr Ago	Rate	at Spot	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6720	-0.22c	1.6683	Sterling	0.5981	+0.08p	0.5994
2-Mark	2.9993	+0.99p	2.8710	D-Mark	1.7937	+0.85p	1.7210
£/yen	230.69	+¥5.19	191.76	Yen	137.93	+¥3.78	114.78
£ index	106.30	0.00	101.20	5 index	110.60	+0.00	102.80

OTHER INDICATORS

Commodity	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Most Rpt
Brent Oil (\$)	11.25	0.50	17.32	GDP	114.70	2.90	111.47
Gold (\$)	295.95	-3.20	337.70	RPI	163.30	4.20	156.91
Silver (\$)	5.31	0.01	4.75	Base Rates	7.50	6.50	

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6361	Mexico (nuevo peso)	13.41
Austria (schillings)	20.37	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2657
Belgium (francs)	59.74	New Zealand (\$)	3.0885
Canada (\$)	2.3841	Norway (krone)	12.31
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8457	Portugal (escudos)	294.74
Denmark (krone)	11.11	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0552
Finland (markka)	8.8644	Singapore (\$)	2.6145
France (francs)	9.7153	Spain (pesetas)	245.13
Germany (marks)	2.9094	South Africa (rand)	8.8693
Greece (drachmas)	492.85	Sweden (krone)	12.89
Hong Kong (\$)	1.1481	Switzerland (francs)	2.4334
Ireland (pounds)	65.19	Thailand (bahts)	62.01
India (rupees)	5.6221	Turkey (liras)	413559
Israel (shekels)	2869	USA (\$)	1.6233
Italy (lira)	224.79		
Japan (yen)	6.2947		
Malaysia (ringgits)	0.6298		
Malta (lira)			

Hong Kong launches crisis measures to prop economy

THE HONG KONG government yesterday launched an unprecedented package of measures designed to stop the rot in its troubled economy, as stock markets the world over watched the unfolding of latest chapter in the Asian crisis with an increasing sense of unease.

Breaking into television programmes to announce the package, a grim-faced Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's chief executive, said that the economic position was "more serious and far-reaching than we had anticipated". He said the economic downturn in the first quarter would be followed by a second quarter which gave no grounds for optimism. "We are at a crucial stage," said Mr Tung before unveiling a series of measures described by his financial secretary, Sir Donald Tsang, as "special measures" for a "special situation". As from today, all land sales in Hong Kong will be suspended until April next year, the first time the government has suspended such sales since 1953. The government is to make a HK\$3.88bn (\$500m) rate rebate, provide additional credit guarantees to exporters and to provide increased funding to first time home buyers. Company earnings from Hong Kong dollar deposits will be exempt from profits tax, a move intended to support Hong Kong's US dollar peg.

M&S postpones move into Australia

MARKS & SPENCER has decided to postpone its expansion into Australia just seven months after the retailer announced plans to open branches in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

M&S blamed the decision on the weakening of the Australian dollar and "unstable economic conditions affecting Asian economies". Paul D Smith, chief executive of M&S in Asia-Pacific, said: "We have concluded that opening Marks & Spencer stores in Australia under the current economic conditions is no longer viable." He said one of the reasons for the decision was the rise in the cost of imported merchandise caused by the weakening currency which would have led to higher selling prices.

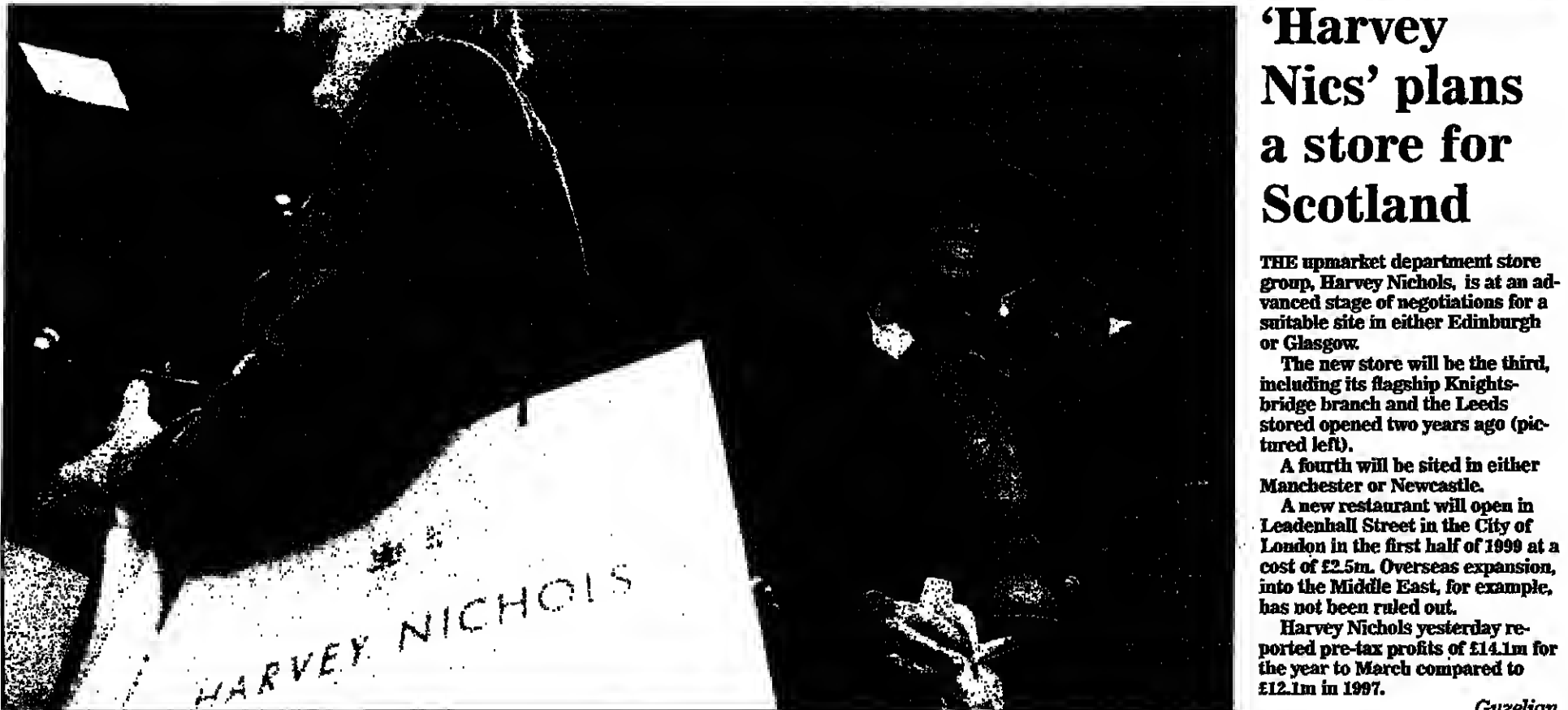
"This gives some argument for buying property stocks in the short term, but can't help in the longer run. The core problem isn't oversupply but falling demand because of high interest rates and increasing job insecurity."

In London, the blue-chip FTSE 100 share index closed down 35.7 points after regaining about half of the ground it had lost in its early morning slide. The performances of the other European bourses were also lacklustre, while early trading on Wall Street trading was firmer than many had expected.

At lunch-time, the Dow Jones was up 0.5 points at 8713.57.

The dollar rose against the yen in the wake of the disappointing G7 meeting, although the Japanese Nikkei index rose by a third of a percentage point to 15,309 on Monday.

Japanese bank shares were generally down amid persistent rumours that the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan (LTCB) would be forced into a merger by its bad debt problem. Yesterday's Yomiuri newspaper reported that LTCB was to merge with Daiwa and Dai-ichi Kangyo, a tie-up which would create the world's biggest bank. All three banks have denied the rumours of a merger between them.



'Harvey Nics' plans a store for Scotland

THE upmarket department store group, Harvey Nichols, is at an advanced stage of negotiations for a suitable site in either Edinburgh or Glasgow.

The new store will be the third, including its flagship Knightsbridge branch and the Leeds store opened two years ago (pictured left).

A fourth will be sited in either Manchester or Newcastle.

A new restaurant will open in Leadenhall Street in the City of London in the first half of 1999 at a cost of £2.5m. Overseas expansion, into the Middle East, for example, has not been ruled out.

Harvey Nichols yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £14.1m for the year to March compared to £12.1m in 1997.

Guzelian

Minimum wage 'will harm youth jobs'

A NATIONAL minimum wage does cost young employees' jobs, says an authoritative new report issued yesterday, vindicating the Government's controversial announcement of a lower minimum wage for young workers up to the age of 21.

The annual "Employment Outlook" from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says: "The balance of the evidence suggests some adverse effects on youth unemployment. ... It seems desirable in countries which have a minimum wage to apply a lower rate to young people." The OECD predicts that unemployment in the UK will start to rise next year as the economy slows, with 100,000 more people likely to join the dole queues. Last year, by contrast, Britain saw one of the

biggest drops in joblessness among the 29 OECD member countries.

The report's conclusion on the wage rests on a study of the impact of a minimum wage on poverty and employment in the 17 member countries that already have it. Economists found that a minimum wage was "neither the solution to overall family poverty nor the general scourge on jobs that opposite sides proclaim".

As about four-fifths of low-paid workers outside the US do not live in poor households, the introduction of a minimum wage will have little impact on family poverty, the OECD says. But it might improve the incentives to look for work, and prevent earnings falling below socially acceptable levels.

The researchers found little impact on jobs overall, but did discover that a minimum wage destroyed jobs for the youngest workers. Regardless of the level at which it was initially set, a 10 per cent rise in the minimum for young people reduced their level of employment by between 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent.

A separate OECD study of the UK economy due to be published later today, reinforces this. It says: "A high minimum wage would impact adversely and more strongly on youth employment opportunities."

The research backs Gordon Brown's concern that a higher level for the youth rate could have damaged the Government's "new deal" for young workers.

The report says 1997 saw the biggest rise in employment in member economies since 1993. The US, Canada, Mexico, Spain and Turkey recorded the biggest rises in employment, and the UK one of the biggest falls in unemployment.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

IN SUBSIDED trading shares were weighed down by the continuing Far Eastern crisis and yet another strong display by sterling. But Footsie managed to close off its day's low down 35.7 points at 5,712.4.

Supporting indices were also pulled back. Orange, the mobile phone group expected to announce lower tariffs today, was the best performing blue chip, jumping 28p to a 551p peak. Compass, the contract caterer, was another to buck the downward trend as takeover rumours persisted.

NEW YORK

WALL STREET stocks fell in early trading after the weekend meeting of the Group of Seven failed to inspire a rally in the yen. The Dow Industrials was off 12 points at 8,700 while the Nasdaq composite was flat at 1,782.

Shares in General Re shot up \$47.75 to \$288 after Warren Buffett's announced bid, and Dow Transports advanced after Merrill Lynch raised airline earnings forecasts. But the market generally was depressed by the G7 statement on Japan.

TOKYO

JAPANESE stocks rose on expectations that the government will unveil a detailed plan early next month to speed up the disposal of banks' bad loans.

The Nikkei 225 index rose 135.92 points, or 0.89 per cent, to 15,403.90. The broader Topix index gained 5.74 points, or 0.48 per cent, to 1,188.01. Banking stocks led the rise after an announcement that the government would present a comprehensive strategy to resolve Japan's banking crisis by 8 July.

HONG KONG

HONG KONG stocks fell sharply yesterday amid concerns that Japan might delay the introduction of measures to revive its flagging economy and solve its banks' debt problems. The Hang Seng index ended a four-day rally with a 387.70-point drop to 8,204.21 - 4.5 per cent lower than Friday's close.

The main cause for the slump was a fall in the yen, which was triggered by worries over Japanese measures to kick-start the economy.

GERMANY

GERMAN SHARES were mixed as concern that Japan's lack of resolve to reform its economy would prolong Asia's recession offset gains in Munich Re after Lehman Brothers raised its recommendation on the stock.

The benchmark DAX Xetra Index fell 3.73 points to 5647.94. Munich Re, the reinsurance giant, was among the best performers, rising 49.25 marks to 862.5 as Lehman upgraded the stock to "outperform" from "neutral".

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Oil at \$9 a barrel is a trigger for economic instability

TOMORROW the ministers of Opec, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, meet in Vienna to try to agree on a cut in oil production in an effort to push up the oil price.

A couple of decades ago this would be a source of profound worry for oil companies and producers alike. Hoards of journalists would converge on the meeting and the oil companies would nervously await the Opec decision. It's not like that now, is it? The event will be reported, of course, but without the same excitement.

And, while the oil companies will be watching nervously, their tears will be almost exactly the opposite of those 20 years ago. Then the companies were frightened that Opec would be able to push the oil price up in a dramatic way; they feared the meeting would be successful. Now they are frightened that the oil ministers will not be able to agree; they fear the meeting will fail.

Look at the price in dollars per barrel of Arab light crude back to 1973, just before the first oil shock. Arab light is usually a couple of dollars lower than the Brent price we usually use nowadays as the main marker. I have taken the Arab price for the simple reason that there was no Brent price then.

The oil price is now lower in money terms than it was in



HAMISH MCRAE

We have a reverse oil shock - a halving of the price. An upward shock could follow, at precisely the wrong point in the cycle

January 1974, immediately after the first oil shock. Not only that, it is lower than at any stage since. The most striking thing is the way the price on the Arab light measure has halved since the autumn. Last October it was over \$19 a barrel; last week it was below \$9 a barrel. If the oil price had doubled, think what a story that would have been. But it has halved, and most of us have hardly noticed. Remember, too, that in real terms the oil price is lower than it was before the first oil crisis.

What's up? The story comes, I think, in three parts. There is a "supply must equal demand" story, a "so what?" story and a "what if?" story.

The first is straightforward. We know why the oil price is so weak. There has been a combination of unusually low demand and a rise in supply.

BP's annual "Statistical Review of World Energy", published last week, showed how last year total demand for energy rose by only 1.6 per cent, half the rate of the three previous years. Apart from the effects of the Asian crisis, Japan, Europe and the US all had relatively warm winters, which cut energy demand. Gas consumption actually fell for the first time since 1975.

Meanwhile oil production rose by 3.1 per cent, and Opec production grew faster than at any time since the Gulf War. Opec members produced 41.5 per cent of the world's oil, the highest proportion for 10 years.

But nothing is for ever. A common-sense response is to say that as we are now at the absolute bottom of the post-1973 range, we must be at some sort of floor. True, Opec no longer controls the oil price, for there are too many outside producers. It is also true that the present price would have been thought inconceivable six months ago, but at some

stage in all markets there is a turning point. We adjust.

Looking ahead, you can see changes on supply and demand which ought to bring the price back into its trading range of the past decade of between \$15 and \$20 a barrel. Most movement will have to be on the demand side.

On supply, Opec will presumably agree to cut production. The talked-of figure is a cut of 1 million barrels a day. That is quite big, for total world consumption last year was 72 million barrels a day. But the agreement would have to stick one of the reasons for the recent fall seems to be the usual one of countries cheating on their production quotas. A cut is very much in Opec's long-term interests, but the temptation for a country to produce a bit more is very strong.

You cannot, however, control the oil price if you have only 40 per cent of the production. You can be a major influence on it, but not more. So on the demand side, there are two things to watch. One will be the level of economic activity in the US and Europe, the two main areas likely to increase demand. If the US falters or the European recovery slows, expect demand for energy to be flat. Only a persistently cold winter will help.

The other demand element

will be the ability of consumers to switch energy sources. This does not happen suddenly, and for transport there is in any case no real substitute: oil utterly dominates. But if it seems likely that oil (and gas) will remain cheap for several years, there is a powerful incentive to switch out of other fuels, in particular coal, for power generation. The pressure on coal producers comes principally from ever-cheaper gas.

That leads to story two: what are the implications of oil remaining very cheap? There is an obvious conservation issue. On any long-term view the world ought to be conserving energy and switching to renewable sources. But the market mechanism cannot help. So the burden of nudging the world towards containing energy use will have to be done by other means, principally taxation and regulation.

Both need to be crafted carefully to be effective, for bad regulation may be worse than none at all. While energy taxation ought to become an even more important source of revenue for developed country governments, building political support for that is extremely difficult, as this country found over VAT on fuel. New energy sources will also need to be explored without the straight financial incentive to do so. And

we have to assume that the world will remain a fossil-fuel economy for at least another generation.

Beyond conservation lies a political issue. While there is plenty of oil, most of the world's reserves lie in politically unstable regions. There are political and strategic reasons for not being too dependent on a single source of energy.

And "what if?" The key point is that very low oil and gas prices are a source of instability, not stability. You can see this in macro-economic terms: for now, cheap energy helps economic growth, but it also makes growth vulnerable to an energy shock. Where that shock might come from is not predictable, just as no-one predicted the Gulf War. Anyone can round up the usual suspects, but the shock need not be a war. At present we are benefiting from a reverse oil shock, the halving of the price. A series of factors could come together and there could be an upward shock, too, and just at the wrong time in the economic cycle.

In most cases, cheaper is better. In the case of the oil price that only holds up to a point. We are at that point. If Opec does get its act together in Vienna, welcome the news. It is in our interests that it should.

Shell puts Thai assets up for sale

BY TERRY MACALISTER

OIL GIANT Shell will next week put up for sale its upstream oil and gas interests in Thailand, after Enterprise Oil yesterday disposed of North Sea assets worth £165m.

The shake-up in the energy sector underlines the pressure to focus activities at a time when crude oil prices have hit their lowest levels in real terms for 25 years.

Shell, which last week revealed plans for a joint venture with Premier Oil in Pakistan, will tender its upstream Thai business worth an estimated \$300m (£180m) on 29 June. "We want to concentrate on our core interests and Thailand is not considered part of that," said a spokesman at Shell's London head office.

Around nine bidders, including Malaysian state oil company Petronas, are in the frame to take a stake in the S1 onshore block which Shell operates, plus the B6/27 concession and other assets.

Any deal would not impact on Shell's downstream activities in Thailand, which include a 64 per cent interest in the Rayong refinery and the Shell Thailand chemicals marketing business.

Meanwhile, Enterprise yesterday announced the £165m sale of holdings in the UK fields of Piper, Claymore, Saltire and Scapa to newly-created company Intrepid. Enterprise has also sold a 5.7 per cent stake in the Nelson field to Intrepid, which is run by the former UK chief of Santa Fe, Mike Lynch.

The sale of non-core assets will result in a post-tax profit on disposal of £25m in 1998 and re-

move 25,700 barrels of oil equivalents from the Enterprise portfolio. Chief executive Pierre Jungels insisted the sale was "purely opportunistic" rather than a reaction to the oil price.

But he admitted the cash would help fund this year's record expenditure of £500m on development and a further £170m on exploration. "The funds realised will be re-deployed over time in other parts of our business where we believe we can achieve higher returns for shareholders," he said.

Analysts said both the strategy and the price seemed good for Enterprise. The assets were exposed to mooted changes in the North Sea fiscal structure. Alan Marshall, oil analyst at Robert Fleming, said: "The strong price indicates that oil companies remain confident that the current crude price is a downward blip rather than a structural change."

Enterprise also said yesterday that its latest well in the Llanos prospect in the Gulf of Mexico was "extremely encouraging". The discovery, in which Enterprise holds a 30 per cent stake, means a development project will probably be fast-tracked.

With the price of July Brent crude falling to \$12.13, oil companies are looking to Opec ministers meeting in Vienna this week to agree production cuts. Mr Jungels said he was confident Opec would act and the price would recover. Middle East producers are heavily reliant on their crude exports.

A new family firm for the Cazenoves

CHRISTOPHER CAZENOVE, the dashing actor currently playing the lead in *An Ideal Husband* in the West End, has taken a stake in his cousin Bobby Cazenove's newly formed software self-teach provider Cazcom.

This means there are more Cazenoves at Cazcom than at the blue blooded stockbroker Cazenove & Co, which can now boast only one member of the family.

The disenchantment by Bobby's side off the clan with working in Tokenhouse Yard began some time ago, he tells me. Edward Cazenove, a marquis and Bobby's father, resigned from the firm to spend more time following his gentlemanly county pursuits.

"My father took the view that the Cazenoves were an established Huguenot family who regrettably turned to trade sometime in the 17th Century," says Bobby.

At the start of his working life, Cazenove junior was in-

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



interviewed by his cousin Harry, the former senior partner of the blue blooded broker.

"Can you tell the difference between these two," asked Harry, holding up two tea bags to Bobby's bemused gaze. "One is Earl Grey, the other China tea. This is what you will be doing," said Harry.

Despite this enticing offer, Bobby opted for Kleinwort Benson, which later dispensed with

his services when it discovered he was innumerate.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Philip Healey, who together with his wife Susan has sold out of *Acquisitions Monthly*, the compiler of City league tables which they founded 14 years ago.

Philip is understandably coy about disclosing the size of his payoff, having signed a contract with lawyers Thomson Financial Services Europe, which includes a blood-curdling secrecy clause on the vulgar subject of cash.

Philip went to work for the *Financial Times* straight from school at the age of 17 - "before you had to go to Oxford or Cambridge" - and stayed for 20 years. He then set up a mergers and acquisitions publication with his wife, who was working in investment banking at Bankers Trust. Then they launched *Acquisitions Monthly* and "got lucky", he says.

"Now I'm 51 and want to move on. I'll stay with the mag-

azine for six months, then I want to get into venture capital and get some non-executive directorships," he says.

His magazine's league tables of investment banks, listing who has done the most numerous and most lucrative corporate finance deals, have become a benchmark for performance in the City. So just for the record, who does Philip personally rate as a top deal-maker?

"There are two," he replies: "John Thornton, who huilt Goldman Sachs' UK presence in corporate finance in the 1980s virtually single handed, and Guy Dawson, who rebuilt Morgan Grenfell after the Guinness affair."

ANOTHER JOURNALIST off to seek his fortune is Simon Davies, who is leaving the *Financial Times* to become a smaller companies analyst at ABN Amro.

Simon, who has been with the FT for six years, latterly

writing about capital markets, will be answering to Richard Rae, the new head of sales and research, and Mark Brown, head of research.

THE FINAL chapter in yet another sorry tale from the dealing floors at UBS, TJ Lim, once head of fixed income at UBS and regarded by many as a rising star, is off to join Dresdner Kleinwort Benson (DKB).

It's not the first time that Mr Lim's name has been linked with Dresdner. Earlier this year he hit the headlines when it was reported that he had been negotiating to take himself and some of his team to the German bank, a move that apparently fell apart when the two parties couldn't agree on terms and conditions.

After his initial dalliance with the Germans, Mr Lim committed himself to the new UBS, on the understanding that he would be given certain responsibilities after the bank's merger with rival SBC.

However, when a firm offer of a job in the new bank was finally forthcoming, the remit of the post did not match Mr Lim's expectations. He decided enough was enough, and told the Swiss he would be leaving for pastures new.

Mr Lim stayed with UBS to assist with the integration process, which is more or less done and dusted. He talked to a number of potential employers, so I hear, and had a second, far more fruitful, round of negotiations with the Germans.

He is now to be co-head of global markets at Dresdner, with special responsibility for international business. He also seems likely to be given a seat on the DKB board. And although he is not taking his old team with him to DKB, Mr Lim is bound to run into a familiar face or two in his new offices.

Just last week, Dresdner hired fellow UBS refugee Conor Killeen as head of its global equity capital markets business.

IN BRIEF

Goldman and Gates vie for Cliveden

GOLDMAN SACHS yesterday said it was in the running to bid for Cliveden, the hotels and leisure company which runs the stately home of that name. Two property companies in which Goldman is the main shareholder are set to rival a consortium led by Microsoft founder Bill Gates that last week tabled a £42.8m offer for Cliveden.

Levy resigns from Polygram

ALAN LEVY, yesterday stepped down as chief executive of Polygram, the music company. His resignation came after Philips, Polygram's main shareholder, cut the price Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainment giant, will pay for Polygram by \$200m to \$10.4bn (\$5.2bn).

Tudor House sold to Thomson

THOMSON CORPORATION, the Canadian media giant, yesterday bought Tudor House, publisher of *Acquisitions Monthly* magazine for an undisclosed sum.

A&L surges on merger reports

SHARES IN Alliance & Leicester rose sharply yesterday after the bank said it would be keen to merge with another lender. It would not confirm reports that it is interested in Woolwich.



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Souter gains a place at Virgin table

IT IS hard to imagine a more striking contrast than Brian Souter and Richard Branson, the latter tanned, smooth and perfectly groomed, the other looking for all the world like someone who has just crawled out from beneath a bush, with his Glaswegian pallor, stained red jacket and scuffed-up shoes.

But plainly there's more in common here than meets the eye. They're both fabulously wealthy, though by very different routes; they're both mavericks; they both have a poor, though possibly unjustified reputation for quality of service as train operators; and when it comes to business, they are both as sharp as razors.

So the question is, just who is screwing who in the rabbit-out-of-a-hat deal announced by Virgin Rail yesterday on the eve of its planned stock market flotation? The City took one look at the deal and made up its mind that it must be Mr Branson, marking Stagecoach shares down 4 per cent.

Mr Branson's stake in the enterprise rises from 41 per cent to 51 per cent at no extra cost to himself. The venture capitalists who have supported the train company thus far make a clean exit at an appar-



OUTLOOK

ent premium to what the company could have been floated for. Sleeping financial stakeholders are replaced with a strategic partner that can bring real value to the party. And last but not least, Mr Branson is saved from the hassle and public scrutiny of a shares float.

In return for his £138m, Mr Souter gets - well, just 49 per cent of Virgin Trains, which is still a quite high-risk venture. Though it seems to be making good profits now, it will be in deep trouble when its public subsidy declines soon after the turn of the century if it falls in the meantime to meet some heroic assumptions on growth in passenger traffic.

Still, Mr Souter presumably knows what he is doing. Stagecoach unsuccessfully bid for both the Virgin franchises when they were up for sale, and according to Mr Souter, his own traffic growth assumptions weren't so very different from Mr Branson's. Since then prospects have improved, both because passenger numbers are higher than expected and because Virgin has been clever at transferring the risk of new investment to Railtrack and manufacturers. Mr Souter believes the real value of the franchises is substantially higher than the flotation price.

So this may be one of those rare instances where both sides gain from the deal. Certainly it's not all Mr Branson's way. Belligerent and noisy though stock-market investors can be, they could have something to commend them over Mr Souter: a competitor, sitting there like a cuckoo in the nest.

Any job is better than none

THE MINIMUM wage is one of those issues where a bit of common sense goes a long way, if only it is allowed.

Sadly, the voice of reason has not often been welcome in this debate. All praise, then, to the bodies at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for their assessment of the evidence in member countries. If the debate had not become so heated, the conclusions would be no surprise: a minimum wage is no cure-all for poverty, but does not destroy vast swathes of jobs either. Where it does hit job prospects, it is for young people at the start of their working life.

Luckily for the Government, the Low Pay Commission recommended an adult rate not high enough to frighten employers. Most of the outcry, therefore, has come from unions and anti-poverty campaigners. And they are particularly angry about the cut in the proposed youth rate from £3.20 to £2.00 an hour. Both are miserly wages, so the anger is understandable. But it is misplaced.

The reason is that most young workers - more than four-fifths - live in households that are not poor. Typically they rely on parental support just as much as their contemporaries in higher education. If they are not at college or in full-time training, what they need above all

else to make sure they have decent prospects in life is a job. Even a job with low pay and bad conditions is better than unemployment for somebody starting out, because if they do not develop the disciplines and social skills of work and fail to get on the first rung of the ladder, they are unlikely ever to prosper.

It is therefore right to start out with a very cautious level of the minimum wage for the youngest groups - including all of those eligible for the New Deal. What the protesters ought to be focusing their energies on is how to assess its effect, or lack of it, on jobs, and consequently how it can be updated over time. It is a real disservice to younger workers to posture about how their minimum wage level has been set too low, for the evidence is that in so far as a minimum wage hits jobs at all, it is the prospects of the young that get hurt most.

A&L, Woolwich go well together

WHAT TO make of the latest round of merger rumours in the UK banking sector? Alliance & Leicester is reported to be fluttering its eyelids

at the Woolwich, a fellow former mutual. And, on the face of it at least, a tie-up between the two has its attractions.

Competition in the mortgage market is cut-throat. A link-up would generate some £200m of cost savings and provide some breathing space on margins. A deal would also provide a neat answer to the tricky question of excess capital.

Both A&L and the Woolwich, like all the former mutuals, have more money sloshing about than they know what to with. If either were to make an acquisition on their own, they would lose their protected status - leaving them vulnerable to take-over - and would be unlikely to be able to afford a business of any real size. If the two join forces, on the other hand, they would lose one protected status to gain another - sufficient market share to make a bid from another mortgage provider impossible for competition reasons. They would also have sufficient financial muscle both to fend off unwanted bid approaches and to fund a reasonably-sized acquisition.

But this is all besides the point. The real question is could the two agree on who gets the top jobs. This,

as we know, has come to be the deciding factor, the make or break issue, even for the most commercially compelling of mergers. The answer, it seems, is probably not. According to those in the know, neither John Stewart - Woolwich's young-ish, fairly democratic, chief executive - nor Peter White - Alliance & Leicester's old-ish, rather autocratic, chief executive - would happily step aside.

If any deal between A&L and the Woolwich is to work, it would have to be a friendly merger; a merger of equals. In this case we have two chief executives both equally intent on setting the agenda, plus a wider clash of both culture and strategic direction.

On paper, the deal doesn't look too bad. In practice, though, we may be looking at Glaxo/SmithKline Beecham Mark 2. A tie-up between the two would be lucky to even make it off the drawing board. So far, all the talk of major consolidation in the UK banking market has come to naught. Since friendly mergers seem to be so difficult to cement, it may mean that if market expectations are going to be satisfied, someone will eventually have to go hostile.

News Analysis: The boom in 'themed' pubs is going flat



Traditional pubs are harder to find, but revamped venues may now be reaching saturation David Rose

'Regent shares plunge on profits warning

THE RAPID growth of pub operator Regent Inns came to a dramatic halt yesterday when it issued a profits warning caused by "inconsistencies and inaccuracies" in its accounts and the incorrect calculation of key sales figures. Regent also blamed weaker profits at new branches caused by increased competition and delays in opening new branches.

Regent Inns' shares plunged 44 per cent on the warning, falling 140p to 176.5p. The news dragged down shares in rival pubs companies, such as JD Wetherspoon and Slug & Lettuce, which have been trading on high ratings. There may be a stock exchange inquiry into the steady fall in Regent's shares ahead of yesterday's announcement. Analysts have cut profit estimates for Regent from around £18m to £13m.

Regent Inns said that a review by new finance director Paul Huberman, who joined from Asda Properties in March, had uncovered a number of inconsistencies in various accounting treatments totalling £1.7m. The board has also reviewed the basis of its like-for-like sales and found they had been calculated incorrectly.

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

Like-for-like sales for the year to date are now said to be running at 1.5 per cent higher than the same period last year. At the time of its half-year profits in February, Regent said its like-for-like sales were 7 per cent ahead.

Regent stressed that its financial results for earlier years were not affected, that there was no "black hole" in the accounts and no evidence of "improper conduct" by directors. Analysts said the business had been built up as an entrepreneurial company but was now moving towards a more corporate structure and culture as it grew.

Clive Watson, the former finance director, left in February to pursue other interests. Mr Watson, who was finance director of Regent for eight years, issued a statement yesterday to clarify his position. It said: "The current-year budgets were prepared in July 1997 and were approved by the group's executive board. These were reviewed by the full board of Regent Inns in September and the components of the budget received

their full endorsement." It is understood he was only informed of the company's impending announcement in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Sector analysts said the trading problems at Regent were not a surprise given the rapid expansion undertaken by all the major pub groups. Nigel Popham, of Teather & Greenwood, said Regent's problems could be "the tip of the iceberg" as far as other smaller pub operators were concerned.

"Pub chains have spent vast amounts of money on building up their estates just at a time when consumer demand is slowing and competition in the high street is at its most intense. The statement from Regent doesn't paint too rosy a picture for the industry as a whole," said Mr Popham.

There has been an explosive growth in new themed pubs, including Regent's Australian-themed Walkabout Inns, but this has forced pub rents into a relentless spiral, particularly on the high street where most new bars are located. "There are too many people spending too much money too quickly for people to make an adequate

return on their investment," one analyst said. Whitbread says it has been "walking away from more sites than ever" recently, deterred by high rentals.

Whitbread estimates that concept bars such as Bass's All Bar One and its own Hogshod brand have staying power in the longer term, but they question the longevity of so-called "fashion pubs". Pub groups have already cut back on opening Irish-themed bars as they feel this sector of market has reached saturation.

Whitbread said: "There has been this mad rush to catch up by some operators, particularly in food pubs where the growth is strongest. Operators have been paying through the nose for available sites, but these costs must be stretching people's models on viability."

Until yesterday, Regent Inns had been one of the stock market's success stories. Floated in 1993, the shares soared eightfold to a high of 380p earlier this year helped by a booming pub market, high margins and a rapid roll-out of new outlets. But critics have warned of over-expansion just when higher interest rates are hitting consumer spending.

Pearson raises £58m on sale of Spanish theme park stake

PEARSON, the Financial Times to Baywatch group, yesterday took another step towards concentrating on its key businesses when it sold its holding in a Spanish theme park for £58m.

The company will receive £40m for its 40.5 per cent shareholding in the Port Aventura complex outside Barcelona. Universal Studios, the film division of the Seagram drinks and entertainment group, will buy a 37 per cent stake. La Caixa, the Spanish bank, will buy 2.5 per cent.

Pearson will also receive an £18m payment to compensate its Tussauds division, which had been running the park, for the termination of its management contract.

Marjorie Scardino, Pearson chief executive, said the deal was part of the group's move to

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

sell assets where it did not exert full control. "This disposal enables the Tussauds team to focus its efforts on international operations where it has full management control and can capitalise on the value of the global Tussauds franchise," she said.

Tussauds' main asset is the Madame Tussauds waxwork museum in London. It also runs the Planetarium and Rock Circus in London, as well as the UK theme parks Alton Towers and Chessington World of Adventure. It recently bought Thorpe Park, another amusement park in Surrey.

Analysts have long expected Pearson to sell the Tussauds group and recycle the cash into its main media and pub-



Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson

lishing business. The group has in the past approached Rank, the leisure group, about acquiring the business.

Pearson's acquisition of Simon & Schuster's educational publishing division raised expectations that Tussauds

would be among the assets sold to pay off debts. A sale would be likely to fetch about £500m. Pearson's shareholding in the Lazard investment banking house is also widely tipped to be sold. However, a spokesman for Pearson yesterday said Tussauds was committed to opening new Madame Tussauds outlets in New York and Las Vegas.

Pearson paid a total of £37.5m for its stake in Port Aventura, which opened in May 1995. Other shareholders are Spanish utility Ecsa, US brewer Anheuser Busch and La Caixa. The park has attracted 8 million visitors.

Pearson shares slipped 14p to 1,051p as the market expressed its disappointment that the group had not announced more significant sales.

Merrill Lynch buys Canadian broker

MERRILL LYNCH, the US investment bank, yesterday bought Midland Walwyn, Canada's last major independent brokerage, for about 120m Canadian dollars (\$85m) in stock.

Merrill, the biggest US securities firm, will pay 0.24 shares for each Midland Walwyn share, valued at \$31.89, a 17 per cent premium to the company's Friday closing price. The purchase marks the return of Merrill to Canada's re-

tail brokerage business after an eight-year absence as the New York firm and its rivals use acquisitions to expand around the globe. Midland Walwyn has 116 branches and 3,240 employees, including 1,278 salespeople.

"All the securities firms are seeing unprecedented global opportunities," said Phil Carter, an analyst who helps manage \$7bn for Phoenix Investment Counsel, which owned 275,600 Merrill shares in March. Buy-

ing Midland Walwyn is "a nice little niche in a broader global strategy," he said.

Merrill sold its Canadian retail unit in 1990 to CIBC Wood Gundy Securities, a Canadian investment bank. Now the firm is taking advantage of its stock being near a record high and the rising US dollar to become one of Canada's three largest brokerages. In the past three years, Merrill has acquired Smith New Court to become the

UK's biggest brokerage firm, and Mercury Asset Management, one of the world's largest money managers.

Midland Walwyn shares rose \$2.40 to \$29.65, after gaining 19 per cent since last Monday on speculation that the firm would be purchased. It has been the focus of takeover speculation since Royal Bank of Canada's RBC Dominion Securities bought Richardson Green-shields of Canada in 1996.

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MARKET LEADERS					
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm					
Rank	Title	Author	Rank	Title	Author
1	New Look	20.95	11	Trig Steel	12.95
2	5.5k: Awareness	15.95	12	Violence Group	12.95
3	Circling	14.50	13	Smashville Ranch	13.95
4	Retribution	12.95	14	Big	12.25
5	Eric Perelman	12.95	15	Barclay	10.45
6	Maris & Spencer	5.95	16	11pds 728	10.25

HOUR BY HOUR

11:00 574.8 Down 43.3 | B

79	130	144	148	152	156	160	164	168	172	176	180	184	188	192	196	200	204	208	212	216	220	224	228	232	236	240	244	248	252	256	260	264	268	272	276	280	284	288	292	296	300	304	308	312	316	320	324	328	332	336	340	344	348	352	356	360	364	368	372	376	380	384	388	392	396	400	404	408	412	416	420	424	428	432	436	440	444	448	452	456	460	464	468	472	476	480	484	488	492	496	500	504	508	512	516	520	524	528	532	536	540	544	548	552	556	560	564	568	572	576	580	584	588	592	596	600	604	608	612	616	620	624	628	632	636	640	644	648	652	656	660	664	668	672	676	680	684	688	692	696	700	704	708	712	716	720	724	728	732	736	740	744	748	752	756	760	764	768	772	776	780	784	788	792	796	800	804	808	812	816	820	824	828	832	836	840	844	848	852	856	860	864	868	872	876	880	884	888	892	896	900	904	908	912	916	920	924	928	932	936	940	944	948	952	956	960	964	968	972	976	980	984	988	992	996	1000
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1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 277, 1996, 1033-1037.

...and the fact that the *Journal of Management* is a leading journal in the field of management research.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.

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L E V I S T O N ●

Co	198	10	2.0	0666	370	253	RT Cap Per	351	6.9	07	7917
Issued	457	95	0.3	2141	95	34	Schur Assn Pac	28	-0.3	18	4925

180	77	-1.3	-	-	6767	188	129	Schneider UK	164	-1.0	2.8	-	1885
	320	-0.5	1.6	-	2711	191	147	SchneiderWest aut	183	-3.0	-	-	
	192	-2.0	1.5	-	1210	223	171	Schaeffler	224	-2.3	3.0	-	1841

219	1.5	1.7	1543	106	96	Scot Med Tr	104	x 0.0	10.1	-	-
180	1.5	-	6703	153	112	Scot Value	148	x 1.0	1.7	-	1724

FC	40	-1.3	0.0	-	0657	207	146	Sale HTHS Sm Co	120	-4.0	3.9	-	6133
A	329	-2.5	0.5	-	2442	485	255	Starch Inv	472	-8.0	4.0	-	2541
Ind	116	0.0	0.0	-	3827	104	122	Smaller Co	176	-2.0	2.4	-	7688

134	x-15	04	-	2109	170	84	Trawl Engines	103	-0.0	1.3	-	2176
196	x-25			5804	125	76	Trawl Lamps	91	-0.8	0.5		2167
70	x-35			1151	460	200	Thermal Cams	645	0.0	1.1		2168

471	-75	2.0	-	1712	170	137	Underwrt Assets	163	± 1.5	1.0	-	2244
52	-05	4.0	-	3679	270	193	US Smlr Con	239	-4.5	-	-	3008

WmCo	172	-1.8	4.9	-	6622	358	282	WmCo	370	-3.0	2.4	-	3286
SmCo	34	-1.0	-	-	4562	610	342	Yonatan Cap	576	-11.5	-	-	2682

LEISURE & HOTELS

Yat	108	2.0	0.5	1465	23	14	Arava Lake	26	0.0	20.5
inCo	172	1.8	2.7	6539	955	493	Aston Villa	500	1.5	3366
meCo	191	2.0	1.8	2132	134	58	Stamford Town	715	0.0	2.5 11.1 1200

Polysar	24	-1.0	4382	25	25	Burdette	22	-0.5	8.3	7.7	5829
Pho-Tek	126	-0.5	3848	180	79	Capital Corp.	07	0.0	7.0	10.3	6301
Pharm	177	-3.0	4022	169	49	Chadwick	102	0.5	2.5	20.1	

170	-0.5	-	-	6034	110	67	Europe	108	0.0	-	-	6261
180	-1.0	-	-	1742	141	121	East London	145	-0.5	37	6.3	
45	0.0	-	-				East London	145	0.0	31	17.0	

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

INDEX-LINKED	104.25	102.23	Ty	8% 00	102.28	0.15	6.92	3405
	110.04	107.26	Ty	10% 01	107.47	0.20	6.80	3079
	104.14	102.00	Ty	10% 01	102.05	0.04		3071

HL 2 06	24.97	0.00	1.00	357	113.90	110.50	Tsy	9.75% 02	101.56	0.38	6.54	3076
HL 3 09	196.86	0.00	2.88	340	100.99	103.76	Fly	8% 01	106.91	0.31	6.25	6607

HL 2.5 28	HL 40	0.00	2.57	1974	HL 20	HL 93	Com 0.5% 04	HL 94	0.37	6.23	1983
HL 2.5 24	HL 0.78	0.00	2.63	1973	HL 17	97.76	Try 4.75% 04	HL 25	0.41	6.17	6477

2.5% Perp	42.3	0.09	5.77	89%	122.90	103.55	Yay 7.75% 06	171.20	0.44	0.01	2562
2.5% Perp	42.3	0.09	5.77	89%	122.90	103.55	Yay 7.75% 06	171.20	0.44	0.01	2562

1.5% Perp	66.63	0.40	5.68	2230	119.62	109.04	Thy 0.5% CF	117.53	0.41	5.97	3875
4% Perp	67.22	0.31	5.95	1895	118.89	100.59	Thy 7.25% CF	119.08	0.43	5.87	2233

5.5% 98	102.01	0.04	7.36	304	LONGS
4.25% 98	101.72	-0.01	7.49	2087	

11/23/99	11/23/99	0.04	7.30	593	11/23	11/23/99	197	9% 12	103.44	0.46	5.81	545
6% 99	98.68	0.04	7.24	674	101/03	06.12	Trg	5.5% 12	98.88	0.05	5.41	105
11/23/99	103.44	0.04	7.23	1958	124.85	07/07	Trg	0% 13	122.17	0.34	5.78	671

9% 88	102.78	-0.03	7.20	210	131.5	109.00	7.07	21	100.53	0.25	5.61	5735
10% 00	118.16	0.17	7.09	212								

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SPORT

Shaken Fraser puts faith in Gough's return

ENGLAND'S SITUATION at finding themselves 1-0 down may not have changed, but the time spent on analysis surely has. Not so long ago, a sound drubbing would have been followed by a forlorn shrug, a quick pack, and a headlong rush to rejoin county colleagues at the next venue, usually several hours away. Now it seems, there is actually time to mull things over, though judging by the way England's batting twice capitulated, time is not likely to be the healer many would have it to be.

Time - something England, with three Tests to play, are fast running out of - can even be slowed down if needs be. The slo-mo button on the video has become the provider of sport's forensic evidence and Angus Fraser spent much of yesterday looking at aspects of the Lord's Test. For a non-apologist like Fraser, re-running the game would have made gruesome viewing. "It didn't feel like we bowled badly, but maybe we did," Fraser said. "That's what I'm hoping to find out by looking at the videos."

England's under-achieving cricketers are pondering another crushing Test defeat. But will it help them? By Derek Pringle

What Fraser will see of himself is a steady but uninspired bowling performance. In some ways his spell with the new ball was more like that of a first change bowler, the line - eight inches outside off stump - being one most prudent bowlers adopt, when the pitch is flat and the ball old. If England believed they could bowl South Africa out for under 250, having put them in to bat, Fraser ought to have bowled a more aggressive line. His support of Dominic Cork was steady but rarely chal-

lenging, which forced Stewart to overbow the Derbyshire captain in a bid to improve on the first four wickets he'd taken. "I don't believe the pitch did that much and the ball only seemed about occasionally," Fraser said. "It was definitely drier than Edgbaston." "What I think happened was that the surface quickened up, so any subsequent movement was harder to combat. Also they have three bowlers in Allan Donald, Shaun Pollock and Jacques Kallis who all swing the ball about at a good pace, whereas we only have Corky."

As the scores clearly suggest, South Africa's bowlers did get far more out of the pitch than England's, but then they always believed they would. Having demolished the home side in their first innings for 110 after making 360 themselves, Donald and Pollock swung the ball around under cloud at a ferocious pace. "We can't use it as an excuse when people bowl well," explained Fraser. "At this level the surprise should come when people bowl badly. Likewise the batting. Jonny Rhodes played fantastically well, but we shouldn't be surprised when he does."

Rhodes, who also prevented his side collapsing at Edgbaston, was undoubtedly the catalyst that spurred his bowlers into action. Coming in at 46 for 4, after Alec Stewart's decision to bowl first had looked to be a correct and decisive one, Rhodes played what was certainly his finest Test innings to date. A committed Christian, Rhodes puts it down to his faith. When asked by David Gower whether he believed in the Lord's factor, he put away the verbal half-volley as smartly as any dispatched during his century: "I believe in my Lord," he said. "I don't know about any English Lord's."

But there is clearly belief and belief, and twice in two days England's middle order batted like Christians, though they more resembled the ones who were thrown to the lions than those who believed in miracles. Only Nasser Hussain, Michael Atherton and Stewart himself batted with any conviction. Hussain's batting century was his second in three Tests to be made in a losing cause. Fraser is cautious over what has to be done. "I know we keep on saying it, but it is the usual test of character thing, of coming back from behind. Hopefully Darren Gough will be fit for the next Test and we can do that."

Richardson out to master his mentor

MARK RICHARDSON does not exactly come across as a monster. Thoughtful, articulate, talented - these are the words you would readily ascribe to the 25-year-old sports science graduate who will travel to St Petersburg this weekend as Britain's choice for the European Cup 400 metres.

But on the day the team was named last week, Richardson was referred to by Roger Black as the monster he had helped to create. Britain's team captain, naturally, was jesting, but there was an identifiable element of chagrin as he described the progress Richardson has made since they began training together two years ago.

The 400m is Britain's boom event, bursting with talent - apart from Richardson and Black, there are the two Welshmen who have joined them to take successive relay silvers at the Olympic Games and World Championships, Iwan Thomas and Jamie Beluch. All four, to varying degrees, have proved themselves capable of making an impact in the individual event.

However, while Thomas burned most brightly last year earning the title of Britain's Athlete of the Year after lowering Black's UK record, Black himself believes that Richardson is the man most likely to be become the first Briton to break 44 seconds for the event.

Black believes that the 400m has changed fundamentally with the domination of Michael Johnson, who became the first man to win both the 200 and 400m at the Olympics in Atlanta two years ago. "Now to be an outstanding 400m runner you have to be a great sprinter," Black said.

Roger Black's pre-eminence as Britain's top 400 metres runner is under threat from his protégé. By Mike Rowbottom

"There is no doubt that Mark is a great sprinter, but the weakness he has had in the past has been his lack of strength. He doesn't have that weakness anymore. Now he has it all. More fool me."

A few years ago, such an alliance between rivals would have been unthinkable. But with Black, now 32 determined to retire this year after a 12-year career which has brought him Olympic and world silver medals and European and Commonwealth titles, the emphasis has shifted.

"The relationship is perfect," said Richardson, who approached Black following the Atlanta Olympics having decided to move on from the guiding influence of his coach, Martin Watkins.

"Martin was a really valuable part of my development and it was an amicable split," Richardson said. "But these are exciting times for me. The arrangement between Roger and myself works well because we are at very different stages. He is in the twilight of his career, although obviously he wants to sign off by winning the European title for a third time, but he has his Olympic silver and that was an enormous satisfaction to him. I am still up and coming in the event, still very hungry."

So eager was Richardson to prepare for this season's campaign that he cut short his planned six-week break. "I rang my sprint coach, Tony Lester, and told him I couldn't tolerate it any more. I wanted to get out on to the track."

Richardson readily confirms that there is a sense in which Black feels he is passing on the torch. "Most definitely. Roger has been so generous in passing on the knowledge he has gained. I have learned so much in the last two years and I hope that he will advise me for the rest of my career. There is no edge between us. We are kindred spirits. But we are both still confident we can beat each other."

That matter is likely to be settled conclusively at the European Championships in Budapest later this summer. But 10 days ago, Richardson demonstrated outstanding early season form with a clear victory over his mentor in Helsinki, recording 44.53sec - just 0.06 sec off the personal best he set in finishing fourth at last year's World Championships. The performance established him as more than half a second faster than any of his British rivals at this time of year, settling any doubts over who was worth an individual place in St Petersburg.

It was all the more remarkable for the fact that Richardson was still recovering from whiplash injuries he had sustained in a car crash two days earlier. The only good thing about the incident was that it occurred outside the home of his massage therapist, Mark Zambada.

It was just another blip in the career of an athlete who has suffered more than his fair share of injury and ill fortune, albeit it that he competes in an event which is notorious for its brutal demands on protagonists. Richardson indicated his huge potential at 16 when he set a world age best of 44.43, but his ambitions were curtailed by injuries - he missed the 1989 season, and then lost most of the 1993 and 1994 summer seasons with what turned out to be a fractured hip. In that time he saw two new talents emerge to earn glory - David Grindley, his rival from junior days, and Du'Aine Ladejo, who won European indoor and outdoor titles in 1994.

"It was heart-rending watching Du'Aine winning the outdoor title in 1994," Richardson said. "I was sitting in front of the television, thinking 'if only'."

Two years later there was more frustration for him as his performance in the Olympic trials was un-



Mark Richardson: 'Roger [Black] has been so generous in passing on the knowledge he has gained. I have learned so much'

Allsport

THE TOUGHEST SPRINT IN THE WORLD

THE 400 metres has a reputation for pushing its protagonists to the limits. Here are four Britons who have found the going hard.

DEREK REDMOND: UK record holder at 19. Missed 1986 Commonwealth Games, 1988 Olympics and 1990 through injury. Pulled his hamstring in 1992 Olympic semi-final. That finished his career. **ROGER BLACK:** Now 32, he won the 1986 Commonwealth and European titles, but missed 1988 and most of 1989 with a foot injury and in 1993 had viral infection. Had operations on knees before and after 1996 Olympics. Last season was undermined by another viral problem.

DU'AINE LADEJO: Won the 1994 European indoor and outdoor titles, but niggling injuries took the edge off his form the following year and again caused him disappointment at the 1996 Olympics. He switched to the decathlon, but his progress in that sphere has also been checked by injuries.

DAVID GRINDLEY: At 19 he set UK record of 44.47sec in the 1992 Olympic semi-final. The following year he won the Grand Prix title, but he missed the World Championships with a calf injury. Missed 1994 season with Achilles tendon and calf injuries from which he has never fully recovered.

dermined by an untimely bout of food poisoning he had suffered two weeks earlier. Running a personal best just two weeks later was a bitter-sweet achievement after missing out on an individual place. That sequence of events and a lingering sense that he did not receive his due for last year's performance in Athens makes Richardson's ambition burn brightly.

"I don't think I have had enough respect," he said. "It is very important to me. This season I want to win the European title and I also think it's possible, if I get into a very fast race, to beat 44 seconds."

Illness and injury permitting, Richardson seems ready to explore new territory in the next three months.

Injury has robbed Britain of two of their leading field event exponents for the European Cup - the pole vaulter Nick Buckfield and the high jumper Steve Smith. Michael Edwards and Ben Challenger are the replacements.

Mitchell issues 'do or die' call to England

RUGBY UNION

By Chris Hewitt in Auckland

IF A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, a lot of knowledge can be more alarming still. John Mitchell, the main man on England's coaching panel in the unfortunate absence of Clive Woodward, understands more than most All Blacks about the workings of the New Zealand rugby psyche and he fully intends to spend the rest of this week shattering any illusions that might remain over the scale of the task the tourists face in Auckland this weekend.

While on the subject of illusions, the caretaker boss has taken immediate steps to disabuse Richard-

Cockerill, the Leicester hooker, of any notion that his weekend bout of public handbag swinging with Norm Hewitt, the New Zealand A captain, was an acceptable example of alcohol-induced high spirits. Mitchell was fairly fuming with Cockerill as news of the late-night hotel altercation hit the Otago newspapers yesterday.

Both Cockerill and Hewitt did their level best to play down the incident and in truth, their bone-headed antics barely registered on the Richter scale of rugby tomfoolery. But Mitchell still deemed it necessary to summon Cockerill to a private meeting yesterday while John Hart, the All Black coach, confirmed he would be questioning Hewitt at length today.

Born in Taranaki, Mitchell learned his rugby in the rugged environment of Waikato and eventually graduated with honours to take a deserved place among the 1993 All Blacks. He knows exactly how his countrymen will approach Saturday's second and final Test at Eden Park and admits that England are faced with the starkest of choices: either they play out of their skins, or they suffer a thrashing from which they may never recover.

"History tells us that if a touring side is ever going to beat New Zealand in New Zealand, they have to take the chances they are offered in the opening Test," the Sale coach said yesterday. "It is a special quality of All Black sides that they learn incredibly quickly; they always reap-

pear better oiled, more confident, more physical. In actual fact, I wouldn't want to be an All Black on the training paddock this week. They shipped three tries against 14 men in Dunedin and they'll be put through the mill because of it."

The All Blacks should worry. Mitchell is not wholly convinced that Woodward, back in England following the death of his father, was best advised to throw verbal hand grenades at either Hart or Wayne Erickson, the Australian referee, in the aftermath of Saturday's spateful 64-22 reverse at Carisbrook. "These things have a habit of coming back and biting you," he agreed. "I'm a great believer in not providing opponents with free ammunition. There was a lot of verbal warfare at

the weekend and that sort of thing goes both ways."

In Mitchell's unforgiving opinion, those members of Tony Diprose's midweek side who failed to "front up" in today's match against the Maoris could wave goodbye to their England futures.

"We knew some of the less experienced guys would find it difficult at this level," he said, "but this is a last chance for certain people on this tour and if they want to stay involved when we return home, they're going to have to show an ability to get to grips with things."

Given that the Maoris last lost a game in 1993, it was reasonable to assume that one or two English backsides went on the line in Rotorua this morning.

Wales in positive mood for Springbok challenge

WALES' CARETAKER coach, Dennis John, has insisted his tourists will adopt a positive approach when they face South Africa on Saturday.

The Welsh players and their management watched Ireland lose 33-0 to the Springboks at the weekend in a scrappy contest. The South African coach, Nick Mallett, was critical of Ireland, but John has vowed that Wales will try to play an attacking game.

"For the most part, Ireland simply concentrated on trying to disrupt the Springboks," John said. "We will have a much more positive approach. I would rather use lose heavily than play negatively."

Before the Test, however, Wales face the Gauteng Falcons in their final provincial match at Vanberbi-

jilpark tonight. John will want to rest most of his Test line-up but injuries may force him to do otherwise.

The Welsh have already lost seven players to injury, with wing Wayne Proctor and open-side flanker Martyn Williams the latest victims. Their replacements, Stephen Jones of Llanelli and Swansea's Dean Thomas are due to link up with the rest of the Welsh squad today.

WALES (v Gauteng Falcons, today): D Williams (Llanelli); L Woodward (Ebbw Vale); G Evans (Neath); J Fennell (Ebbw Vale); N Bass (Swansea); S Hayward (Ebbw Vale); P John (Pontypridd); D Morris (Neath); G Jenkins (Swansea); S Evans (Neath); P Arnold (Swansea); C Stephens (Bridgend); G Lewis (Pontypridd); O Thomas (Swansea); C Wyatt (Llanelli). Replacements: S Jones (Llanelli); M Taylor (Swansea); D James (Pontypridd); F Howley (Cardiff); N Thomas (Bari); I Gough (Newport); M Griffiths (Pontypridd); S Williams (Rochester).

24/WIMBLEDON

British No 2 Henman forced into a five-set struggle for survival as Novak battles back from two sets to love down



Tim Henman, the No 12 seed, swoops for a low forehand pick-up during his first-round match against the Czech Jiri Novak on No 1 Court yesterday

Robert Hallam

Smith enjoys finest hour

BY GUY HODGSON

YOU JUST cannot trust our tennis players these days. At one time British women raced each other to be the first in Wimbledon's "beaten" column but yesterday the dubious honour fell to Argentina's Paola Suarez, who rocketed out of SW19 in 63 minutes.

Ten home players took to the courts yesterday and unlike the dark ages of the Eighties it was not the massacre of the innocents. Sam Smith, the British women's No 1, secured what she described as the finest win of her career. Louise Latimer beat Germany's Jana Kandarr 6-4, 6-1; and Karen Cross prevailed in a domestic tiff with Jo Ward.

Essex's Smith, at 94 in the highest position she has ever reached, was cruising along at 6-3, 3-0 against the world No 53, Anne-Gaëlle Sidot, when the enormity of what she was doing struck her. "I have never won a match at Wimbledon," she said, "and it seemed too easy. I got a bit tight, nervous."

The second set was lost but she recovered her nerve to prevail 6-3, 4-6, 6-2. "I couldn't have done that 12 months ago," she said. "I have told myself that I can be a top 50 player. It's taking time but I know I can get there."

Julie Pullin, who got a wild card into the tournament, also gave a hint of a shock when she took the second set 6-1 against the world No 99, Japan's Nana Miyagi, but surrendered the decider 6-2. "I had a feeling that she would go up a level in the third set," she said. "And she did. I was hoping to do the same but it went the other way."

When Ward heard she was playing at Wimbledon last week she sought out her fellow Briton. "Who have I got?" Cross asked when she was told she had a terrible draw. "Martina Hingis? Steffi Graf?" Cross had the last laugh yesterday, however, winning their match 6-3, 6-4.

Among the men, the most disappointing defeat was that of Worthing's Martin Lee. He had match point in the third set, tie-break against Italy's Daniele Bracciali but succumbed 4-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Mark Petchey also promised more than he could deliver against the world No 26, Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson, after he had arrested a dreadful start. He took the second set only to lose 6-2, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 and then contemplated retirement.

Petchey, 27, reached the world's top 100 in 1994 but has since slipped to 198 and wonders whether he has the drive to continue. "I haven't made a final decision," he said. "I will talk it over with my coach, Nigel Sears, over the next couple of weeks."

The alternatives he is considering are media work, coaching or marketing for the Lawn Tennis Association. Such were the crowds around Court 13 Petchey was late for his noon appointment and he began pretty shakily, too. Within 12 minutes he was 4-0 down and as he was making mistakes all round the court it was hardly a surprise when he lost the first set in 25 minutes.

More of a shock was his response. Where he could barely get a shot in before, his radar improved and he routed Gustafsson 6-1 in the second set, also in 25 minutes. Sadly it would prove to be the high-water mark.

Davenport takes her first step

SHE'S THE No 2 seed at Wimbledon, yet her name rarely comes up in the talk about title favorites: Lindsay Davenport is Miss Anonymous.

It's a role the 22-year-old American has grown accustomed to playing. "I'm pretty much used to it now," Davenport said yesterday after a comfortable 6-2, 6-2 first-round victory over the world junior champion, Florencia Labat of Argentina.

"It's tough, but it doesn't really bother me. I'm just going out there and trying to play well and try not to worry about what is going on in the media."

Much of the pre-Wimbledon attention has focused on the veterans Steffi Graf and Monica Seles and the teenage starlets Martina Hingis, Anna Kournikova (who withdrew yesterday with a thumb injury) and the sisters Venus and Serena Williams.

"The younger players have definitely made a name for themselves and they love doing all the media stuff and getting the attention," Davenport said. "It's just in there and they have a great persona and get the fans to connect with them. They're just very public people and people have taken a huge liking to the whole group, and they're very exciting to watch."

"Then there are the older players like Graf and Monica Seles who are back too, so it makes for an interesting mix. I'm kind of in the middle and I haven't won a Grand Slam title and I'm not 16 or 17, so I get overlooked."

She shouldn't. This year she's beaten Hingis to win the Pan Pacific title in Tokyo. She's knocked off Kournikova to reach the semi-finals at Amelia Island, in Florida. She outlasted Venus Williams to reach the semifinals of the Australian Open.




Davenport has also made it to the semi-finals of the last three Grand Slams - the US Open, the Australian Open and the French Open. She feels the next step isn't far away.

"It's just a matter of time," she said. "Obviously the US Open is where I'd like to do it. I hope it's just a matter of time and experience. I'm not the one who goes out there and plays great the first time like some of these girls. It takes me more time to learn things to get comfortable and really go for it."

Davenport, still looking to reach her first Grand Slam final, had no troubles yesterday.

Dropping only three points on serve in the second set, Davenport won 63 per cent of the points on her second serve and 67 per cent of the

YESTERDAY AT WIMBLEDON

-  Kournikova is forced to pull out with thumb injury
-  Sampras and Agassi open with comfortable victories
-  Sam Smith enjoys the finest win of her career over the world No 53

second serve points she returned.

"I was very happy, because you never really know what to expect coming in on grass and not playing a warm-up tournament," she said. "I thought I played very well. I served very well and I was moving pretty well which is the key on grass."

She might not have competed at the pre-Wimbledon tournaments in Eastbourne or Rosmalen, but Davenport was not short of practice. Ten days before Wimbledon she called up fellow pro Debbie Graham and discovered someone she knew had a grass court in his back yard just 10 minutes from her home.

"So I think I actually have the most practice on grass because the weather was so nice in California and this guy had the greatest grass

court," Davenport said. "It was the first time I've been able to spend four or five hours a day on grass and really work on things that have troubled me in the past. I feel pretty confident now."

Ilie Nastase, one of the legends of the game hit out yesterday at the modern power game, saying it has too many automatons and not enough court jesters.

Nastase, one of the finest touch players never to win Wimbledon, complained: "These days they are out there to win, not entertain."

"The game was much more human when I was on the circuit. Now if you want a guy's autograph, you have to go through his manager," he said.

To reach some other players an

estate agent might be a better bet as for many an affluent Wimbledonian, the world's most famous tennis tournament offers the chance of a free Caribbean holiday or help with the school fees.

Many top players, used to the weekly tedium of hotel rooms around the globe, happily pay up to £10,000 for a chance to rent a private house in Wimbledon.

Specialist letting agencies put the players in touch with the house-owners happy to leave their homes to the players - even if they do also bring bodyguards along to guard their privacy.

Thirty years after Wimbledon launched the open era and professionals were allowed through its hallowed portals for the first time, Rod Laver has no regrets.

The Wimbledon champion in 1961 and 1962 then turned professional. So he had to wait until 1968 before he could return in triumph to tennis's most famous stage.

"No, I don't think I would have won all the Wimbledon titles that I missed," he said from his home in California, "maybe one or two."

"But you have to remember that if I'd been able to play so would (Lew) Hoad and (Ken) Rosewall and the others who had turned professional."

Andre Agassi is one of many top

players who are dead set against a proposal under consideration by the International Tennis Federation to do away with the let rule.

"If you play (lets), I think you're just throwing in a whole other element," he said. "It just seems so random, almost somewhat lucky." "A lot of times in crucial serves you'll see a let. Sometimes a couple of them in a row. I don't think they should ever play it. I think that's ludicrous... It would be a horrific change in the game."

The rule change will be debated next month at the ITF's annual general meeting in Ireland and could be voted on before the years is over. Designed to speed play, the rule would mean no replay of serves which catch the tape before going over.

Sixteen-year-old Croatian Mirjana Lucic - playing her first Wimbledon - is just getting over a case of chicken pox that kept her out of the French Open.

There's no shortage of strawberries at Wimbledon, and no price increase either.

Again, a cup filled with seven or eight berries and a dollop of cream sells for £1.85. Officials have ordered 24 tons of strawberries for the fortnight. The healthy alternative of yogurt and strawberries costs more - £2.85.

Agassi back chasing the dream

BY GUY HODGSON

THOUSANDS of young women in Britain had a bad time yesterday. How could they explain to younger sisters that the balding, portly figure on the television set is the same person whose poster used to adorn the bedroom wall? "He was gorgeous once." Pause. "Honest."

Time has not been kind to Andre Agassi - but when he gets to snuggle up with Brooke Shields every night why should he care? The long locks that once embellished teenage

dreams have been replaced by a close crop, while the cropped shirts that once rose to show his stomach are now tents to hide the same. Thank goodness Wimbledon did not see him when he was really bad.

Agassi, even in his current state, is an improvement on the man who was crawling in the equivalent of tennis's gutter not so long ago. At 141 and falling he had a world rank of a pre-Tim Henman British tennis player and a future that seemed to be more grand anti-climax than Grand Slams. But as a number of the American's

early-Nineties adorners were no doubt pointing out yesterday, appearances can be deceptive.

Yesterday's man took a long look in a mirror last November, began pumping iron and has had such a renaissance he has arrived at Wimbledon as the 13th seed. A lucky 13th, too, if he gets the same sort of "which way would you like me to lose this point" type of opposition that Alex Calatrava provided him with yesterday. Agassi's barber gave him a far closer shave than anything the Spaniard threw at him.

Calatrava had played in only

two Grand Slam tournaments before, losing in the first round of both the Australian and French Open and, if nothing else, yesterday's 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 defeat proved that he is consistent poor on every surface be it hard court, clay or grass. His performance made you wonder how on earth he has risen to 83rd in the world.

Certainly he had Agassi at a loss as to how he could possibly lose. The 1992 champion also went out of the French Open at the first stage and has been nursing a shoulder injury, so he was rusty to say the least. Yet the opposition was so limp he was 4-0 up in a flurry of forehands and had the first set won in 23 minutes.

Even the umpire seemed concerned: "Can you get the men's trainer?" he shouted to a colleague in the stand.

Calatrava seemed fine, give or take his fatally wounded ground strokes that were hemorrhaging points at an alarming rate, and it was a surprise when a medical man came on to apply a small bandage to his left knee. A tennis

coach was required far more urgently.

The whole thing could have been over in an hour but Agassi began to explore his repertoire. His ground strokes - a glorious burst of wrist-wrenching energy - were given an extra spin to see if he could drag the ball in from impossible heights while he varied his serve, going ever closer to the lines.

The crowning moment came when he did the unthinkable: volleying. Agassi thinks that the only time you should come to the net is when you shake the opponent's hand at the end but, what the hell, there was nothing coming at him that could hurt him, he might as well enjoy himself. And he did.

"I'm excited to be here," he said, which for a man who appeared thoroughly braced off with tennis not so long ago is quite a transformation. "I'm here for the tournament and it feels good. Yes, I would say that we've gone full circle to six years ago."

Then he defied the fiercest serve in the world - Goran

Ivanisevic's - and the theory that Wimbledon could not be won playing from the back of the court, to win his first Grand Slam. It is hardly recalled as the most recent classic men's final and Agassi was happy yesterday to indulge himself that a repeat is not entirely out of the question.

"The first week is crucial," he said. "Once you get in the second it doesn't play like grass any more. If you've got a good return grass helps, you can sneak some breaks every set. Yes I think it's possible."

"Physically I'm 100 per cent and I'm very confident out there. It's hard to tell a lot when you walk through your first round pretty handsly but I know I'll get better. I'm right where I want to be."

As he left Court One yesterday a job well done, Agassi took off his cap and bowed to the four sides of support. It was a hello rather than a gesture of farewell and one that seemed unlikely even six months ago. He might not be the stuff of teen fantasy any more, but he can still dream.



Andre Agassi plays a running forehand in his easy first-round win yesterday

Robert Hallam

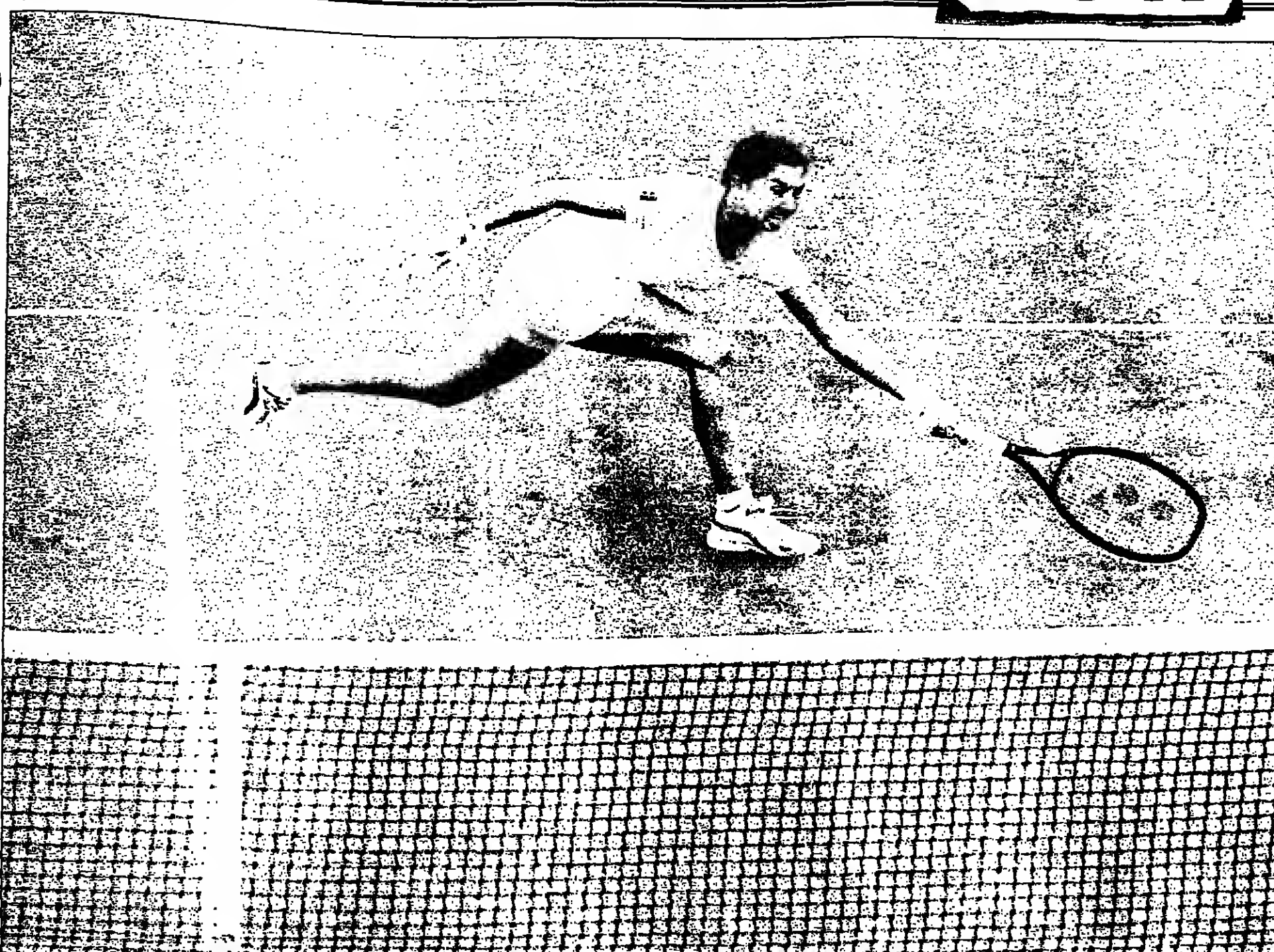
Psst! Wanna packet of Viagra and a ticket to see England in the World Cup Final?

Nah thanks mate. I'm looking for a job abroad.

Why didn't you say so then? You need Overseas Jobs Express

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Smith
enjoys
finest
hour



Monica Seles powers a forehand towards her opponent, the Spaniard Maria Sanchez Lorenzo, in the No 6 seed's straight sets victory yesterday. Robert Hallam

Thumbs down for Anna

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

THE LONG lenses drooped and ungraceful men wept when the news came through. Anna Kournikova, the 17-year-old Russian girl they call a sensation, and who also plays tennis quite well, withdrew from Wimbledon before a camera shutter could be fired off in anger. Acres of newspaper space will have to be reallocated.

Kournikova's damaged thumb now becomes the most important such digit since the little Dutch boy plugged that leaking major dyke in the Netherlands. She tore a ligament in it when playing Steffi Graf at Eastbourne last week. The injury removes the No 12 seed from the competition she values most. "I feel very sad about it," she said. "This is my favourite tournament. Wimbledon is the tradition."

"I was hoping a miracle could happen. I was hoping maybe it would get better, but this morning when I woke up it

was very difficult for me to move the finger."

There was also a digit problem for Mary Pierce, the No 11 seed, namely that she never managed to pull her finger out. She also withdrew, though Pierce used the protracted route of a slow surrender to Elena Tatarkova, of the Ukraine. Even at the best of times, the French player looks as though she is taking the game no more seriously than if she was swanning around in a tournament at her local club.

Steffi Graf, too, broke down, but this was an emotional post-match response rather than a repetition of the leg problems that have held her in thrall for over a year. She beat Gala Leon Garcia of Spain 6-4, 6-1. It was appropriate that Sir Geoffrey Cass, the president of the LTA and chairman of the Royal Shakespeare Company should witness Graf's match from the Royal Box because the German's career is a continuing run of great theatre.

At 29, Graf is almost prehistoric in the women's game. Her left leg is beginning to show the signs of her years in the sport and if she went to Long John Silver's doctor for a consultation he would offer only one opinion.

Graf said yesterday that her fitness was as good as it has been for some time, though the component parts of her game have still to come together. Her match yesterday was splattered equally with the familiar concussive forehands plus some horrible errors.

If she was not playing exactly like the Graf of old, then this athlete before us did not look much like the original model either. She looks leaner, and the months of inactivity have led to a diminished musculature. It is not, however, hulk that Graf needs to find. It is the muse that needs activating and Graf does not have many matches to find it before she runs into someone not cowed by her reputation.

"Physically, I feel that my

muscles are not as strong," she said. "You go through different stages in your career and at times it is disturbing if you have an injury, but I think it is a lot easier if you are younger and you know you have a lot of years ahead of you."

Graf does not look that far any more, especially as there have been occasions when she thought of leaving the stage entirely. "There have been a couple of times, yes," she said. "There have been a couple of occasions when it has been really difficult. It is a pleasure to be here."

Monica Seles, too, was given a Spaniard to dispatch and responded in like fashion with a straight-sets defeat of Maria Sanchez Lorenzo 6-3, 6-4. Under monochrome skies over Court No 1, she followed on from Andre Agassi, her male counterpart as the person who redefined the return of serve as a significant weapon. Seles is the great returner in more than one sense.

She may wonder if The Fates have long board meetings, with damage to her single item on the agenda. First they sent a lunatic with a knife to see her in Hamburg five years ago. Then, just before the French Open, they took away her father, Karoly, a victim of cancer. Her response could be the letters framed on the strings of her racket, the two Y's.

The question of retirement was also put to Seles. "I didn't think about quitting, but I thought about taking time off when I knew my Dad was going through tough periods," she said. "It's the first time in a long time I've had the time to focus on my tennis. I just hope I can keep going like this for the next couple of years because I'm really enjoying playing again."

It was easy to feel sorry for Seles when she came out, though it was not an emotion she afforded herself. When she is on court it is business and there are no asides to the

crowd, no teasing. Chris Evert has said that you can dip into a Seles match and not have any idea of the score from the player's countenance or behaviour.

Seles is not the figure we once knew. Her lines are less soft, and the impression is of even more power. But as her father's wedding ring bounced around her neck, the rest of the package seemed to be as we remembered it. Her face became contorted like a mouse approaching the cheese in a trap, and her game was as unpretty as it always was. Not beautiful, but beautifully effective.

And, of course, there was the backing track of the Seles grunt. Her opponent could make some rather odd noises herself and during the more strenuous rallies it sounded as though the match was taking place in a farmyard. There will, however, be no need for another unpleasant sound this fortnight. Miss Kournikova has gone and she will take the baying with her.

Court circular

EDITED BY IAN TASKER

Music is food of 40-love

AS IF the abundance of Pimms and champagne, boaters and blazers wasn't enough to reassure all visitors that they had indeed arrived at the All England Club, London SW19, an additional dose of old world atmosphere was yesterday laid on in the form of The Red Hot and Blue Orchestra.

It might have been in an attempt to invoke the spirit of a bygone age of British greatness on court that Arthur Deco, or Art Deco to his pals, was asked to get the spectators in the mood by belting out standards from the Twenties and Thirties. The band has been providing a touch more traditional charm to the championships since 1994. "Every year they have music on the Centre Court prior to the ladies' and men's finals to entertain the people who queue and get to their seats early," Deco said. "We played there four years ago which means a lot of the new British men to have appeared on Centre Court on finals' day for any length of time."

This year the committee have provided the band with a small stage adjacent to the Pimms and champagne tent. Resplendent in their tuxedos, red bow ties and Fred Perry-style slicked back hair, they entertain the throng until play starts on the show courts at 2pm. They can be seen again next Saturday.

Security fears give football the red card

FANS WHO trekked down to South-west London in the hope of enjoying a combined football and tennis sporting extravaganza yesterday ended up being sorely disappointed. Not that the tennis didn't live up to expectations, as ever there was plenty to celebrate on that front, but hearts must have sunk for those with England's World Cup campaign on their mind as Wimbledon has been declared a football-free zone.

Thoughts of re-enacting the balmy nights spent watching Euro 96 on the large screen erected opposite the Aorangi picnic terrace were scuppered in a statement by Christopher Goringe, chief executive of the All England Club.

It appears that letting spectators stay on to watch not only the England match but any match will wreak havoc with security because there is no lighting on that part of the site. The official line was that thousands of people tramping out of the ground hours after play has finished might disturb the neighbours. Would these be the same neighbours who turn their driveways into makeshift market stalls in an effort to enter into the spirit of the fortnight and make a couple of bob at the same time?

Jane Marlow



With England playing in the World Cup last night and Britain well represented at Wimbledon, there was no disguising the allegiance of one young woman at the All England Club yesterday.

Robert Hallam

DEEDS OF THE SEEDS

Men's singles	Women's singles
Holder: Pete Sampras (United States)	Holder: Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
1 SAMPRAS (US) vs 16 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	1 HINGIS (SWE) vs 16 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
2 RICKS (GB) vs 17 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	2 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 17 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
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24 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 39 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	24 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 39 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
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26 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 41 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	26 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 41 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
27 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 42 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	27 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 42 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
28 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 43 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	28 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 43 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
29 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 44 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	29 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 44 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
30 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 45 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	30 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 45 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
31 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 46 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	31 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 46 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
32 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 47 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	32 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 47 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
33 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 48 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	33 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 48 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
34 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 49 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	34 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 49 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1
35 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 50 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1	35 KURATSKAYA (UKR) vs 50 KURATSKAYA (UKR) R1

YESTERDAY'S STATS

- 138 The difference in ranking points between No 1 Pete Sampras and No 2 Marcelo Rios.
- 163 The number of points awarded to every male quarter-finalist.
- 435,000 the number of pounds sterling the men's champion will win.
- 122 the number of Grand Slam tournaments in the Open era.
- 35 the number of Wimbledon titles won by British men.
- 65 the number of consecutive weeks Martina Hingis has been at No 1.
- 75 Steffi Graf's world ranking.

LATEST ODDS

Men's singles: 5-4 Sampras; 10-1 Krawietz, Kafelnikov; 12-1 Rusedski, Ivanisevic; 20-1 Hingis, Agassi; 25-1 Korda, Rios; 33-1 Rios, Korda, Philippoussis.

TENNIS

Britain's two top players, Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman, have dropped one place in the latest world rankings announced by ATP today. Rusedski goes from fourth to fifth and Henman from fifth to sixth. Nigel Maud and Andy Hindley won the men's doubles title at the 1998 Wimbledon Championships, beating the French pair of Rafter and Panatta 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. The women's doubles title was won by the American pair of Lindsay Davenport and Mary Pierce, beating the Russian pair of Kuznetsov and Yegorina 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. The mixed doubles title was won by the British pair of Jonathan Smith and Emma Smith, beating the American pair of Rafter and Panatta 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

IT'S ALL ABOUT BALANCE, PRECISION AND MOVEMENT.

ROLEX

Naturally, the Oyster Perpetual is the most precise of all watches. Wimbledon, 1998.

WIMBLEDON RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

Holder: P Sampras (US)
First round
N Escude (Fr) bt D Wheaton (US) 6-1 7-6 6-4
S Draper (Aus) bt R Schutler (Ger) 6-3 7-5 6-3
T Haas (Ger) bt R Delgado (Par) 6-7 6-3 6-3
M Gustafsson (Swe) bt M R J Petchey (GB) 6-2 1-6 6-3
A Agassi (US) bt A Calatrava (Sp) 6-2 6-4 6-3
P Korda (Cz Rep) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-3 6-4 6-3

P Sampras (US) bt D Hirshy (Slovak) 6-3 6-3 6-2
M Woodforde (Aus) bt J Knippschild (Ger) 4-6 6-3 7-6 6-1
J Tarango (US) bt P Haarhuis (Neth) 1-6 6-3 6-3 6-0
R Vasek (Cz Rep) bt O Gross (Ger) 7-6 6-3 8-1
D Nalnikin (SA) bt T Kietola (Fin) 6-1 7-6 6-4
J Goldmar (Fr) bt D E Sapsford (GB) 7-6 6-2 6-3
M Tilirosm (Swe) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 6-4 6-7 7-6 6-3
J Gimelstob (US) bt A CORREJA (Sp) 7-6 6-2 6-3

8 Black (Zim) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 7-5 6-3 6-6 7-6 6-2
F Dewulf (Bel) bt S Campbell (US) 6-3 2-6 6-1 6-0
A O'Brien (US) bt K Carlsen (Den) 6-3 2-6 6-4 6-3 6-4
J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt G Kuerten (Br) 4-6 6-3 6-1 4-6 10-8
T Enqvist (Swe) bt D Nestor (Can) 6-7 6-7 6-4 6-0 6-0
D Bracciali (It) bt M Lee (GB) 4-6 6-7 6-6 6-2 6-2
M Chang (US) bt J Viloca (Sp) 6-4 6-3 6-3 6-6 6-2
8 Ullrich (Cz Rep) bt L Arnold (Arg) 2-6 7-6 6-3 6-3

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Holder: M Hingis (Swt)
First round
C Rabin (US) bt G Nielsen (US) 4-6 6-0 6-2
M A Vento (Ven) bt M S Cack (US) 7-6 4-6 6-3
H Nagyova (Slovak) bt A Frazier (US) 6-7 6-2 6-4
M Diaz Oliva (Arg) bt P Suarez (Arg) 6-3 6-2
K Boogert (Neth) bt M Saeki (Japan) 3-6 6-2 6-1
A J COETZER (SA) bt K A Guse (Aus) 6-1 6-6 6-4
R Grande (It) bt F Li (Ch) 6-1 6-4
E Tatarikova (Ukr) bt M PIERCE (Fr) 7-6 6-3
S Noorlander (Neth) bt O Lugina (Ukr) 6-3 6-1

N Miyagi (Japan) bt J M Pullin (GB) 6-3 6-1
S Sawanama (Japan) bt B Paulus (Aus) 2-6 6-3 6-2
L Neland (Lat) bt S Pitkowski (Fr) 6-1 5-7 6-3
A Carlsson (Swe) bt A Garsi (Cz Rep) 6-1 6-3
N Zvereva (Bela) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 7-5 6-4
L A DAVENPORT (US) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-2 6-2
F Perferi (It) bt D Chladkova (Cz Rep) 6-0 6-1
S GRAF (Ger) bt G Leon Garcia (Sp) 6-4 6-1
M SELES (US) bt M Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) 6-3 6-4
C Moraru (US) bt M Maruska (Aus) 4-6 6-1 6-2
K M Cross (GB) bt J Ward (GB) 6-3 6-1
L Latimer (GB) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 6-4 6-1

SPORTING DIGEST

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kansas City 6 Detroit 3; Toronto 1 Baltimore 3; Boston 3 New York Yankees 1; Minnesota 6 Chicago White Sox 1; Seattle 10 Oakland 5.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 4 Arizona 1; New York Mets 3 Florida 2; Pittsburgh 6 Milwaukee 3; St Louis 5 Philadelphia 1; Colorado 11 Los Angeles 3; Cincinnati 10 San Francisco 1.

CYCLING

Britain's Chris Boardman took the fifth stage of the Tour of Catalonia in Girona, Spain, to maintain his grip on the overall leader's yellow jersey. Chris Newton, Middlesbrough's Commonwealth Games hopeful, raced to his second win in two days on the Isle of Man when he sprinted to victory in the Walsford Handicap. Newton, who won Sunday's International Mountain time trial which opened the Manx week, claimed the verdict by inches from last year's winner, Julian Winn of Wales.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: See page 31.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Gaughran Falcons v Wales (at Warrington, 7.55pm); New Zealand v England (at Rotherham, 7.55pm).

OTHER SPORTS

TENNIS: All England Championships (Wimbledon). See page 24.

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND

1st Stage (162.5km, from Zurich to Basel): 1 V Durne (Aus) 3hr 5min 3sec; 2 R Huer (Swt) 3hr 5min 3sec; 3 D Baldinger (Ger) 3hr 5min 3sec; 4 P Ferrari (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 5 M Lelli (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 6 C Bassano (Fr) 3hr 5min 3sec; 7 M Lelli (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 8 A Pavesi (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 9 S Garzelli (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 10 P. Pignoli (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 11 B. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 12 S. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 13 S. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 14 S. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 15 S. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 16 S. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 17 S. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 18 S. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 19 S. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec; 20 S. B. Casagrande (It) 3hr 5min 3sec.

FOOTBALL CUP FIRST ROUND

1st Round: 1. Liverpool 1-0 Manchester United; 2. Arsenal 1-0 Chelsea; 3. Tottenham 1-0 West Ham; 4. Manchester City 1-0 Aston Villa; 5. Newcastle 1-0 Everton; 6. Blackburn 1-0 Middlesbrough; 7. Nottingham Forest 1-0 Derby County; 8. Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 Leeds United; 9. Birmingham City 1-0 Luton Town; 10. Preston North End 1-0 Millwall; 11. Walsley 1-0 Barnsley; 12. Gillingham 1-0 Exeter City; 13. Notts County 1-0 Grimsby Town; 14. Shrewsbury Town 1-0 Hereford United; 15. Mansfield Town 1-0 Lincoln City; 16. Doncaster Rovers 1-0 Rochdale; 17. Southend United 1-0 Wrexham; 18. Colchester United 1-0 Stevenage Borough; 19. Dagenham & Redbridge 1-0 Ebbsfleet United; 20. Dover Athletic 1-0 Maidstone United.

GOLF

Jack Nicklaus is coming to Britain for the Open next month, but he is not certain yet that he will play. The 58-year-old, who finished 43rd in the US Open on Sunday, said: "I'm going over, but I'll see how my body feels when I wake up Tuesday morning that week."

ICE HOCKEY

The former Great Britain coach, Peter Woods, was yesterday appointed as ice hockey Superleague's (ISL) new director of sport. The 40-year-old Canadian will oversee all technical aspects of ISL, which will include coaching, officiating, discipline and general hockey operations.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Cardiff, Swansea and Gateshead are the front-runners for places in Super League next season after making preliminary club chief executives yesterday. Glasgow and Northamp-

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26/RACING

Best is
Derby
top dog

By GREG WOOD

THE WORLD CUP has comprehensively smothered most of the alternative sporting attractions this month, but dedicated punters should be aware that the coming weekend brings not one, but three different Derbys to compete for the betting pound.

The Irish Derby at the Curragh on Sunday, which gives City Honours a chance to reverse his narrow defeat by High-Rise in the original at Epsom, is an obvious highlight, but its claims might be disputed by the Geordie nation, which will be at Newcastle for the Northumberland Plate - the Pitmen's Derby. The biggest roar of all, however, will surely be at Wimbledon - the stadium that is, not the Lawn Tennis club - as the hare-trundles into life before the final of the Greyhound Derby.

The punters crammed into the Plough Lane grandstand can be sure that, whatever the result, the race they will witness will be almost unique in the history of the sport. Six traps will snap open at around 10.30 on Saturday night, but only five dogs will tear towards the first bend, thanks to an extraordinary

primary incident in the second of last Saturday's semi-final heats.

Greenwood Flyer, the ante-post third favourite for the Derby, came off the final bend full of running and needed only to pass the leader, Tullerboy Cash, to win the final. As she did so, however, she turned her head and aimed a nip at Tullerboy Cash. The muzzles worn by all racing dogs ensured that she could do no serious damage, but her offence of "aggressive interference" was enough to guarantee disqualification from Saturday's final.

When a fourth-placed dog was promoted to the final in similar circumstances back in 1988, it ran out the winner, much to the annoyance of those who had backed the runner-up ante-post (indeed, by some accounts the White City stadium was almost demolished by furious punters long before the bulldozers finally moved in a few years ago). As a result, the rules of greyhound racing do not allow the fourth dog home in Saturday's heat to be promoted to the final, and the race will now have just five runners for the first time since 1975.

Fortunately for the competition, one of these is Toms The



Toms The Best, the hot favourite for Saturday's Greyhound Derby at Wimbledon

Paul Duffett

Best, who is one of those rarities in four-legged betting mediums, an animal who lives up to his name. Toms The Best won last year's Irish Derby, in the process ending the attempt by Some Picture to complete an unprecedented Triple Crown of the Scottish, English and Irish Derbys. Success on Saturday would place him among the legends of greyhound racing, and he is a firm favourite at around even money after a brilliant performance in the first semi-final.

Ascribing intelligence to dumb animals is a dangerous thing, but observers at Wimbledon could do little else. A slow start from trap five seemed to have left Toms The Best with an impossible task, and he was two lengths behind the fifth-placed dog at the first bend. From there, however, he seemed to find every scrap of space possible by heading for the inside rail - the aficionados call it "track craft" - and was on the heels of the leader at the third bend. He quickened again to run out a two-length winner.

A similar performance on Saturday will prompt scenes of wild celebration in the bars at Wimbledon (where they do not require much excuse to throw a party). With just four rivals to beat, Toms The Best is that much less likely to encounter traffic problems, although none of his opponents can be described as a rank outsider.

At the draw for trap positions

yesterday, connections of all the runners seemed to get the boxes they wanted. Toms The Best, in four, has the vacant trap on his inside, while Tullerboy Cash is in one, although this is a trap which has never produced a Derby winner at Wimbledon. Jaspers Boy is the nearest rival to Toms The Best in the betting, and at the start, in five, and would take some stopping if Tuesdays Davy, in six, were to miss the break.

For most dog devotees, however, the only serious question is what will finish second. GREYHOUND DERBY (Wimbledon, Saturday): Trap 1: Tullerboy Cash; Trap 2: Toms The Best; Trap 3: Jaspers Boy; Trap 4: Tuesdays Davy; Trap 5: Toms The Best; Trap 6: Jaspers Boy; Trap 7: Toms The Best; Trap 8: Jaspers Boy; Trap 9: Tuesdays Davy; Trap 10: Jaspers Boy.

Tote punters get bottom draw

A FREAK dividend stunned Tote punters who correctly forecast the first three home in a 20-runner sprint at Nottingham yesterday. The Tote paid just £13.40 to a £1 stake, even though the odds of the first three home were 9-1, 11-2 and 6-1, writes Chris Corrigan.

Even Tote punters who put just a straight £1 bet on the winner, King Uno, were paid £15.70. The Tricast, the Trio's rival commonly used in betting shops, paid £255.63. The computerised Tricast requires the first three horses to be forecast in correct order, while the Trio pool bet combines all six permutations from the three horses into one stake. In theory, then, the Tricast might be expected to be six times the Trio dividend. Yesterday, in the

drawn 18, 19 and 20 - the three closest to the stands rail.

Clearly, plenty of punters - including some heavy-hitters - planned to exploit the advantage that high numbers frequently enjoy in Nottingham sprints.

The irony is that the Tote's Trio generally offers better value than the bookmaker-designed Tricast, and the sad fact for punters looking for value in a race such as the one at Nottingham yesterday is that the bookmakers already "load" the Tricast computer to give smaller dividends for races in which the draw offers an edge.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Map: Reine Cerise (Lingfield 4.30)
NB: Easter Ogl (Lingfield 3.30)

Miles 33 Handicap, the Tricast paid 19 times the Trio.

The key to what happened in the 4.15 race was that the first three finishers, King Uno, Stator and Mezzoromo, were

LINGFIELD

HYPERION
2.00 ROMAN REEL (map) 3.30 Mujia's Magic
2.30 Bourneout (nb) 4.00 Mr Nevermind
2.40 Luron Prospector 4.30 Reine Cerise
GOING: Turf - Good to Firm (Good in places); All-weather track - Standard, STALLS: Turf - Standard, 1m 2m 3m 4m 5m 6m 7m 8m 9m 10m 11m 12m 13m 14m 15m 16m 17m 18m 19m 20m 21m 22m 23m 24m 25m 26m 27m 28m 29m 30m 31m 32m 33m 34m 35m 36m 37m 38m 39m 40m 41m 42m 43m 44m 45m 46m 47m 48m 49m 50m 51m 52m 53m 54m 55m 56m 57m 58m 59m 60m 61m 62m 63m 64m 65m 66m 67m 68m 69m 70m 71m 72m 73m 74m 75m 76m 77m 78m 79m 80m 81m 82m 83m 84m 85m 86m 87m 88m 89m 90m 91m 92m 93m 94m 95m 96m 97m 98m 99m 100m 101m 102m 103m 104m 105m 106m 107m 108m 109m 110m 111m 112m 113m 114m 115m 116m 117m 118m 119m 120m 121m 122m 123m 124m 125m 126m 127m 128m 129m 130m 131m 132m 133m 134m 135m 136m 137m 138m 139m 140m 141m 142m 143m 144m 145m 146m 147m 148m 149m 150m 151m 152m 153m 154m 155m 156m 157m 158m 159m 160m 161m 162m 163m 164m 165m 166m 167m 168m 169m 170m 171m 172m 173m 174m 175m 176m 177m 178m 179m 180m 181m 182m 183m 184m 185m 186m 187m 188m 189m 190m 191m 192m 193m 194m 195m 196m 197m 198m 199m 200m 201m 202m 203m 204m 205m 206m 207m 208m 209m 210m 211m 212m 213m 214m 215m 216m 217m 218m 219m 220m 221m 222m 223m 224m 225m 226m 227m 228m 229m 230m 231m 232m 233m 234m 235m 236m 237m 238m 239m 240m 241m 242m 243m 244m 245m 246m 247m 248m 249m 250m 251m 252m 253m 254m 255m 256m 257m 258m 259m 260m 261m 262m 263m 264m 265m 266m 267m 268m 269m 270m 271m 272m 273m 274m 275m 276m 277m 278m 279m 280m 281m 282m 283m 284m 285m 286m 287m 288m 289m 290m 291m 292m 293m 294m 295m 296m 297m 298m 299m 300m 301m 302m 303m 304m 305m 306m 307m 308m 309m 310m 311m 312m 313m 314m 315m 316m 317m 318m 319m 320m 321m 322m 323m 324m 325m 326m 327m 328m 329m 330m 331m 332m 333m 334m 335m 336m 337m 338m 339m 340m 341m 342m 343m 344m 345m 346m 347m 348m 349m 350m 351m 352m 353m 354m 355m 356m 357m 358m 359m 360m 361m 362m 363m 364m 365m 366m 367m 368m 369m 370m 371m 372m 373m 374m 375m 376m 377m 378m 379m 380m 381m 382m 383m 384m 385m 386m 387m 388m 389m 390m 391m 392m 393m 394m 395m 396m 397m 398m 399m 400m 401m 402m 403m 404m 405m 406m 407m 408m 409m 410m 411m 412m 413m 414m 415m 416m 417m 418m 419m 420m 421m 422m 423m 424m 425m 426m 427m 428m 429m 430m 431m 432m 433m 434m 435m 436m 437m 438m 439m 440m 441m 442m 443m 444m 445m 446m 447m 448m 449m 450m 451m 452m 453m 454m 455m 456m 457m 458m 459m 460m 461m 462m 463m 464m 465m 466m 467m 468m 469m 470m 471m 472m 473m 474m 475m 476m 477m 478m 479m 480m 481m 482m 483m 484m 485m 486m 487m 488m 489m 490m 491m 492m 493m 494m 495m 496m 497m 498m 499m 500m 501m 502m 503m 504m 505m 506m 507m 508m 509m 510m 511m 512m 513m 514m 515m 516m 517m 518m 519m 520m 521m 522m 523m 524m 525m 526m 527m 528m 529m 530m 531m 532m 533m 534m 535m 536m 537m 538m 539m 540m 541m 542m 543m 544m 545m 546m 547m 548m 549m 550m 551m 552m 553m 554m 555m 556m 557m 558m 559m 560m 561m 562m 563m 564m 565m 566m 567m 568m 569m 570m 571m 572m 573m 574m 575m 576m 577m 578m 579m 580m 581m 582m 583m 584m 585m 586m 587m 588m 589m 590m 591m 592m 593m 594m 595m 596m 597m 598m 599m 600m 601m 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Wearying week for Westwood

BY ANDY FARRELL
in San Francisco

IN THEIR different ways, Colin Montgomerie and Lee Westwood are counting the price of their success. Montgomerie did not play well enough to contend at the 98th US Open. "You can't do anything half-wrong or you are in problem," he said.

But his week was marred by the heckling he received from a few individuals who seemed determined to bait the man who secured the winning point for Europe at last September's Ryder Cup. "I seem to be blamed for Europe winning," he said.

Westwood, whose seventh place finish was his best in a major championship, has gone down well in America but his decision to pull out of this week's Western Open in Lemont, Illinois, was not received favourably by the tournament director of the event. "It's an outrage," Greg McLaughlin said. "It is a total slap in the face to the PGA Tour and the other players. If they are allowed to pull out of tournaments on a Sunday on the European Tour, no wonder sponsors are fleeing."

McLaughlin, who has also lost Ernie Els and David Duval from his tournament, said he received a voice-mail message stating Westwood and Darren Clarke had withdrawn from their manager, Andrew Chandler. "Neither are welcome at the Western period," McLaughlin said.

Chandler said: "If there is flak to take, I'll take it. Both have played six weeks in a row and been in contention for most of them, but we didn't realise how much this week would take out of them. It was a misjudgement and we are learning all the time."

Westwood backed up that view, saying: "I am mentally drained and looking forward to some time off. It is probably better preparation for the British Open to play two weeks in Europe beforehand."

Another consideration is that Westwood is now top of the European money list and by adding the Irish Open next week, for which he will now need a sponsor's invitation because he had not previously entered, he is looking to maintain that position.

After being six over after two rounds, Westwood dropped only one more shot over the weekend, a performance which meant he rose 31 places over the last 36 holes. Not the least impressive part of Westwood's play was the way he ground out the pars on the back nine, which he played in level par for the week.

"After a top-10 here I am looking forward to the British Open," he said. "I just didn't make enough birdies this week."

Part of Westwood's strategy was to stick with his driver, while others took the club out of their bags. "If you



A camera crew pursues Lee Janzen as he watches his shot on the 18th, his final hole of the US Open at the Olympic Club

have an advantage, why give it away," said Westwood's coach, Peter Cowen. For the second year running the 25-year-old topped the driving accuracy statistic, this time tied with Steve Stricker.

"The only thing he hasn't done this week is to have a bit of luck," Cowen said. "There was too much luck involved this week." Indeed, the destination of the title turned on two incidents. At the fifth hole, Lee Janzen's ball fell down from a tree before he had got back to the tee to play another ball. He then chipped in to save par and the coincidences with his victory at Baltusrol in 1993 were mounting up.

"Payne Stewart, a tree, a chip-in, where have I heard that before," Janzen thought to himself. Having had bogeys at the second and third holes, Janzen was seven behind Stewart but then played the next 15 holes in four under. At the 12th hole, Stewart's tee shot ended in a sand-filled divot and his second found a bunker. Having deliberated over the shot, he was told by an official he had been given a bad timing.

Stewart bogeyed the hole to fall into a tie with Janzen and then failed to get up and down from a bunker at the 16th. "I did not play well enough to win," Stewart, who start-

ed with a four-shot advantage. "But Lee played outstandingly well. He was the only one of the leaders to break 70 and he hit 12 fairways to my six and 14 greens to my nine."

"My greatest emotion right now is of complete satisfaction," Janzen said. "I went out and played my absolute best in the championship. I love the most. To win the US Open twice, I can't do any better than that. There are plenty of golfers who are better than me but that's the best I can do."

Janzen has a reputation of playing tough courses, and none come harder than Olympic last week with the winner the only man to match

par for 72 holes. "The confidence will always be there that I can play tough courses well," he said.

He was also helped by Dave Musgrove, his British caddy. A former draughtsman with Rolls Royce, Musgrove has now guided three players to major victories. The pair have worked together since the end of 1993. "Having won majors with Seve Ballesteros and Sandy Lyle I knew he could do nothing but help me," Janzen said. "The first time he caddied for me was at the Scottish and British Opens and I didn't understand a word he said for two weeks but I thought he was the greatest caddy. I can't say enough about Dave."

Charlton break club record to sign Powell

BY DAVID ANDERSON

CHARLTON ATHLETIC have broken their transfer fee record to sign Chris Powell from Derby for £285,000.

Powell is Alan Curishley's first signing since his side were promoted to the Premier League by beating Sunderland in the play-offs. The 28-year-old defender began his career in south London with Crystal Palace and then Southend.

Richard Murray, the chairman of Charlton plc, said: "Chris is a quality player with two full years in the Premier League. His experience will be invaluable to us."

Derby have already lined up a replacement for Powell. They expect

the German defender, Stefan Schnoor, to complete his transfer from the Bundesliga club Hamburg to Pride Park today.

The 27-year-old, who is moving to Pride Park on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling, is due to have a medical this morning. Schnoor, like Powell, a left-back or left wing-back, agreed personal terms with the Rams before he went on honeymoon to the United States.

Schnoor represents another step in Jim Smith's process of reshaping his side ready for the new Premiership season. The Derby manager is resigned to a close season of wheeling and dealing in the transfer market after setting a club record by paying £2.7m for the Argentinian Horacio Carbonari.

Liverpool chase Kohler

BY ALAN NIXON

ROY EVANS wants to take Jürgen Kohler, the veteran German World Cup centre-back, to Anfield from Borussia Dortmund. The Liverpool manager hopes to strike a bargain for the 32-year-old defender, who has been recommended to him by Karlheinz Riedle. Kohler previously played in Italy for Juventus.

Tottenham's physiotherapist, Tony Lenaghan, has resigned to spend more time with his family. "For the past six years at Spurs, and several prior to that, family life has been virtually nonexistent," he said. "I feel it is time to have a rest, recharge the batteries and spend some quality time with the family."

Birmingham's manager, Trevor Francis, is likely to turn down the chance to sign a new two-year con-

tract at St Andrew's this week in favour of putting pen to paper on another one-year roll-over deal.

David Gold, Birmingham's club chairman, has been involved in lengthy talks with Francis, who has been working on a roll-over deal since joining Birmingham in May 1996. Gold said: "He seems happy with the one-year roll-over deal he was on and I expect that he will choose that again ahead of the offer of a two-year contract. That is not a disappointment to me. I have every confidence that Trevor wants to stay on as Blues manager."

Gold has made a fresh plea to the club captain, Steve Bruce, to stay after he emerged as a strong front-runner to take over as the manager of their First Division rivals Sheffield United this week.

Bruce is understood to be on the

shortlist for the post at Bramall Lane after missing out on the manager's job at his old club, Norwich City, earlier this summer.

Gold is hopeful that the former Manchester United central defender will opt to stay with Birmingham. "I will do everything that I can to keep him. I see next season as a great opportunity for this club."

Bruce, 37, has just signed a 12-month contract with Birmingham, but it includes a clause that allows him to talk to other clubs about moving into management.

Allan Evans has been appointed senior coach at Stoke by Brian Little, who he worked under at Aston Villa. However, he will not be Little's No 2 this time. That job went to Tony McAndrew, who has worked with Little since they were at Darlington together.

Couch wins first pro licence for a woman

BOXING

BRITAIN'S TOP woman boxer, Jane Couch, has created sporting history after the British Boxing Board of Control granted her application for a professional licence yesterday. The move signals a new era for boxing in Britain, with Couch already having attracted interest from several promoters.

It ends a three-year fight for the 27-year-old, which led to Couch taking the BBBC to a tribunal and a claim of sexual discrimination after her original application had been rejected. The Board decided not to appeal against the decision, although the tribunal did not state that the women's world welterweight champion had to be granted a licence, which it emphasised remained a decision for the BBBC.

Couch, who worked in a Blackpool rock factory before taking up boxing and who now lives in Bristol, then had her application heard by the board's Western Area Council at a meeting in Devon. Upon their recommendation, there was a full meeting of the Board and pending medical reports - which gave her the all-clear - they then took the momentous step to award her a licence, which was finally granted yesterday.

Couch, who had previously been forced to box in America or on the European mainland, will now be able to box in Britain. She said: "Thank God it's over. Three years I've been fighting. It's a relief and I'm glad I can now show everyone in this country what a good fighter I am."

Naseem Hamed was yesterday given the go-ahead to return to the ring after recovering from a fractured hand. The World Boxing Organisation world featherweight champion has been out of action since suffering the injury during his seventh-round defeat of Wilfredo Vazquez in Manchester in April. He is now aiming to make his next defence this October after his planned 18 July title fight was called off because of the injury.

TODAY'S NUMBER

60.9

The percentage of Japanese households that watched Japan's 1-0 defeat by Croatia in the World Cup match on Saturday - Japan's highest TV sports rating in over 30 years.

EVENING RACING RESULTS

WINDSOR
5.40: 1. LADY ROCKSTAR (G. Faulkner) 11-10 fav. 2. THE 14-11; 3. Maelle 5-1; 15. rem. 3. V. (M. 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28/WORLD CUP

Group A: Craig Brown's shrewd stewardship on brink of progress while an influential talent refuses to be phased
Scotland alive with rare expectancyBy PHIL SHAW
in St Etienne

THE DAY after Celtic won the European Cup, one paper ran a picture of a deserted Glasgow city centre. In late afternoon, when the streets would normally have been heaving, even Rangers supporters were watching the game. Three decades later, a nation will again be transfixed before its television tonight as Scotland strive for another potentially momentous victory.

By reaching the second phase for the first time, which they would achieve by a combination of their own success against Morocco at the Stade Geoffroy Guichard and Norway failing to beat Brazil, a country of barely five million people could justifiably consider itself among the world's top 16 in football terms. They would also vindicate Craig Brown's meticulous management at a time when Scotland arguably have little of the flair which abounded at the time of Celtic's 1967 triumph.

Progress is unlikely to come easily; it seldom does for the Scots. Those who assume Morocco to be

strictly Third World in the sporting sense overlook the fact that their squad is drawn from clubs in Spain, Italy, France, the Netherlands and Germany, and that their coach, Henri Michel, led France to fourth place in 1986.

They also neglect the evidence of Scotland's record, both of embarrassment by the likes of Iran, Costa Rica and Estonia, and of tortuous near-misses in both the World Cup and the European Championship finals. They invariably come within a whisker of advancing from the group stages. The notion of heroic failure is burnt deep into the Scottish psyche.

Brown, as a student of statistics and the game's history, is painfully aware that they will have to cross the Rubicon, never mind the Rhone, in order to continue the journey with the world champions and their fellow travellers. In 22 fixtures spread over seven tournaments, Scotland have beaten only Zaire, New Zealand, Sweden and (bizarrely) a Dutch side on its way to the 1978 final. With each successive setback, the mental burden grows heavier.

And yet, against all that, one senses in both the manager and his players a burning conviction that this time they will not, in the words of their strangely plaintive official song, "come home too soon". Scotland may have had more gifted individuals, but under Brown they have lost just four competitive matches in four and a half years. The true value of concepts such as organisation and discipline, once

deemed to be out of sync with the romantic spirit of the Scottish game, has been seen in France as it was at Euro 96.

The days when Ally MacLeod could go into a match against Peru oblivious to their talents and tactics are long gone. The doomsday scenario still exists, in the form of Norway benefiting from Brazil possibly fielding reserve players, but there has never been a clearer opportu-

nity to banish forever talk of hoodoo and jinxes.

Indeed, for once, Scotland's misfortune could actually be about to work in their favour. The reshuffle which followed the substitution of Colin Calderwood and Darren Jackson against Norway in Bordeaux may have led Brown to a line-up to be tinkered with at his peril.

The latter's exit as the principal attacker among the central midfield

trio suddenly saw things fall into place. Craig Burley, whom Brown previously regarded as too valuable at wing-back, was switched inside and promptly scored. Jackie McNamara came on to bring a fresh dimension to the wide role.

Brown may be tempted to keep McNamara on the bench, moving Christian Dailly to the right flank and recalling Tosh McKinlay to the opposite side. The Moroccan keeper, Driss Benzekri, has looked insecure on crosses, and McKinlay is renowned for his delivery.

The first-choice forwards, Kevin Gallacher and Gordon Durie, certainly deserve a goal for their prodigious efforts: the last Scotland striker to net from open play in the finals was Joe Jordan in 1982. However, Brown is confident that if John Collins and Paul Lambert see as much of the ball as against Norway, the chances will come.

Equally, he realises that the North Africans will present entirely different problems to the Scandinavians. If there are doubts about their stamina, there are none about their skill. In the Spanish-based

Moustafa Hadji, Henri possesses a player whose ability to dribble at speed could destroy Scotland.

In the past, Brown has deputed a man-marker to negate players who operate in "the hole" such as Jari Litmanen, of Finland, and Austria's Andreas Herzog. Hadji poses a more elusive threat in that he roams wide and free. Scotland's prospects may hinge on whether they can prevent him from hitting them on the break or feeding the front-runners.

Extraordinarily, Scotland could go through with two points or out with four. There is also a strong possibility that qualification could come down to the drawing of lots.

Michel, sacked by France after Scotland beat them to reach Italia 90, probably feels he is due a break tonight. Brown reflects on the "terrible luck" his predecessors endured and reckons it is time fortune favoured the bravehearts. With anticipation tinged by trepidation, Scotland expects.

SCOTLAND (3-5-2; probable): Leighton (Aberdeen); Watt (Heart of Midlothian), Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), Boyd (McMannara, Burnley), Lambert (Stirling Albion), Dailly (Derby County); Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers), Durie (Rangers).

GROUP A: THE PERMUTATIONS

Brazil are assured of winning the group and will meet the runners-up in Group B on 27 June. The team finishing second play the winners of Group B on the same day.

1 Brazil beat Norway; Scotland draw with Morocco: Scotland finish as runners-up

2 Brazil beat Norway; Scotland draw with Morocco: Three teams finish on two points but in this scenario Morocco can not finish above Scotland.

If Norway lose by two goals or more, Scotland finish second.

If Norway lose by one goal, their goal difference will be equal to Scotland's and second place will be decided by the total goals scored in the group. In this scenario Norway qualify if they at least match Scotland's goals tonight; Scotland qualify if they score two or more goals than Norway tonight, lots will be drawn if Scotland score one more goal than Norway tonight.

3 Brazil beat Norway; Morocco beat Scotland: Morocco finish as runners-up.

4 Brazil draw with Norway; Scotland beat Morocco: Scotland finish as runners-up.

5 Brazil draw with Norway; Scotland draw with Morocco: Norway finish as runners-up.

6 Brazil draw with Norway; Morocco beat Scotland: Morocco finish as runners-up.

7 Norway beat Brazil; Scotland beat Morocco: Norway finish as runners-up.

8 Norway beat Brazil; Scotland draw with Morocco: Norway finish as runners-up.

9 Norway beat Brazil; Morocco beat Scotland: Norway finish as runners-up.

Collins adds a dash more culture to the Caledonian force

OUTSIDE A Provençal primary school, a Scotsman who could land a football on a five-franc piece from 30 yards is attempting to flight a metal ball over a rather shorter distance so that it nestles near to a smaller wooden one. In France, mad dogs and petanque players go out in the mid-day sun.

John Collins has immersed himself wholeheartedly in French culture since joining Monaco under the Bosman ruling two summers ago. So it comes as a mild surprise to find that the Scotland vice captain's foray into the sedately compulsive local sport, also known as boule, is for the benefit of a phalanx of photographers rather than part of a new passion.

This evening, at St Etienne, Collins will exchange the gravel for the grass of the Stade Geoffroy Guichard. The aim will be the same - metronomic precision with a spherical object - but the stakes will be the highest for which the 30-year-old former Celtic and Hibernian midfielder has ever played.

Victory over Morocco in their last group match would take Scotland into the second phase of a major tournament for the first time, provided Brazil do not throw Norway a lifeline. A draw might even suffice, although Collins' characteristically positive attitude does not allow for such thinking.

"Morocco are a good team and they also have everything to play for," he reasons. "It's going to take an excellent performance to beat them. I don't believe an average one or a good one will win this game. But we've studied them closely on video, we've prepared well in training and we're up for it."

Collins played against two of the Moroccans, Moustafa Hadji and Abdelilah Saber, when Monaco met Sporting Lisbon in the Champions' League last season. Hadji, the scorer of a stunning goal against Norway on the first night of the finals, particularly impressed him.

"He's the guy Morocco look to find whenever they get the ball. He has the licence to go wherever he wants, and he's got skill and pace, so we'll have to watch him closely. But they're a gifted team, very comfortable on the

In elegant surroundings far from home, a Scotsman is successfully playing the locals at their own game. By Phil Shaw

ball, who'll play a totally different game from the one we encountered last week. Morocco push it around on the ground, whereas Norway like to play it in the air."

There is no doubt which style the quick-footed Collins favours. Happily, in Craig Brown he has a manager who shares his preference for passing the ball rather than launching it. Brown, moreover, has achieved the best record of any Scotland manager by marrying the "British" and "Continental" approaches.

"It's round, it's meant to roll on the ground, not fly through the air," argues the 5ft 6in Collins, echoing Brian Clough's dictum that if God had meant football to be played in the air, he would have put grass in the sky. "That's the way I was brought up anyway, and that's how the top clubs in Europe play."

He speaks from experience, having won the French championship with Monaco in his first season and knocked Manchester United out of the European Cup en route to the semi-finals this year. Collins was always an oasis of calm amid the frenzy of an Old Firm derby. Now, in tandem with Paul Lambert, who is with Celtic after winning Europe's Premier prize with Borussia Dortmund, he is helping to confront deep-rooted perceptions "back home".

"The style of football Paul played in Germany and I play here is like international football. There's a slow build up at the back, and nine times out of 10 the ball goes through midfield. The Celtic boys in this squad played a lot of good stuff on the deck last season too."

"The emphasis has to be on possession. The ball is a precious thing. If we've got it, the other team can't score. If we are moving it about, they're chasing it and running in the heat."

"The reason the Norwegians were going down with cramp was that we were making them run.

When sides tire in the last 20 minutes of a match, that's when you cut them open and get your goals."

Collins was conducting interviews in French within weeks of moving to Monte Carlo and has been monitoring reaction to Scotland's displays in his adopted country. Brown's team are viewed, he says, as less *typiquement Britannique* than Glenn Hoddle's England. "People have been pleasantly surprised by how we've knocked the ball about. They expected us to be more up-and-at-them, though I'd like to think those days have gone."

Like petanque, Scotland are playing a whole new ball game. However, the pride with which Collins recalls how they were still "going at" Norway in stoppage time shows that he understands the need for a balance between keeping posidoo and the Scots' natural aggression. He is still embarrassed that their crudest performance of recent years came in the 0-0 draw with Estonia on Monaco's ground.

That night they seemed fixated by the height of Duncan Ferguson, who will be conspicuous by his absence in St Etienne. Instead, Collins and Lambert will seek to thread passes into the channels for their strikers; to pick out Craig Burley as he makes his David Platt-style surges from midfield; to execute the free-kick routines they rehearse so diligently; and to work the ball wide in order to exploit the Moroccan goalkeeper's reputed vulnerability on crosses.

The latest issue of *France Football* reports that Collins is coveted by Paris St-Germain. Any such talk, he insists, is "for the future, to be sorted out after the World Cup". Right now he is looking no further than Scotland's date with destiny and Morocco, although wherever he reports for pre-season training he expects to do so "with my head held high, knowing that we surprised everyone."



John Collins puts in some shooting practice in training yesterday

Allsport

Norway keep to route one approach

THE LIVERPOOL defender Stig Inge Bjornebye has warned Brazil that Norway will step up their controversial long-ball tactics in Marseilles tonight as they try to qualify for the second round for the first time in their history.

The Norwegians' route-one tactics have so far resulted in disappointment, with a 2-2 draw against Morocco and a 1-1 result against Scotland extending their unbeaten run to 16 matches. Egil Olsen's side probably need to beat the defending champions to join them in the second round, although, if Scotland and Morocco draw, Norway could still lose and go through.

Bjornebye believes that if Norway are to repeat their friendly win over the Brazilians from last year, there is only one way to do it. "We didn't get on top of our last two opponents," he said. "We didn't hold the initiative long enough to hope to win those games. Against Brazil our defence will have to be better organised, our midfielders will have to be steadier and our forwards will have to be quicker."

"We'll have to break down their defence with long passes. We'll also have to mark their full-backs closely. We can't allow them any space. That will be the key to our success."

But Norway's aerial tactics - where they hoist high balls up to the 6ft 4in Chelsea forward Tore Andre Flo - do not worry Brazil. Goncalves, who is set to replace Aldair in defence because of the latter's yellow card, said: "They have the height advantage, but we have the edge in touch, speed and mobility."

In addition, the Brazilians appear to be on an upward curve. After a shaky 2-1 victory over Scotland, they routed Morocco 3-0. With first place in Group A assured and the midfielder Cesar Sampaio suspended, the coach, Mario Zagallo, may experiment against the Norwegians. Denilson, the exciting 20-year-old left winger, may earn his first start of the tournament.

"I want to make those dribbles that drive the fans crazy," Denilson said at the weekend. "Fouls don't intimidate me. The bigger the defender, the harder he falls."

However, Zagallo has refused to confirm the rumour that Denilson will play, saying that he might use Emerson Ferreira, Sampaio's immediate deputy.

Salas' skills crucial to Chile's step forward

By TREVOR HAYLETT

MARCELO SALAS has his country's goalscoring record in his sights today while his Chilean striking partner Ivan Zamorano fixed his gaze further into the future - to a possible second round meeting with Brazil and the chance to put one over on Ronaldo.

Victory in Nantes against Cameroon, the back-markers in Group B but who still harbour hopes of qualification from a tight section, will be enough to take Chile a stage further and the dynamic Salas, having scored all three of their goals, is the man to deliver that prize.

The 23-year-old goes into the game requiring one more goal to establish a new mark for his South American country, having scored 29, the same as Carlos Caszely, from 48 internationals. "It is not important to me that I break this record," said Salas. "What is important is that Chile qualify for the second round."

Italy hold a two-point advantage in the group and conclude today against Austria in the Stade de France, a match that comes under the jurisdiction of the English referee, Paul Durkin. Another victory will assure them of top spot and a ticket to a possible meeting with Scotland on Saturday, should tonight's results go in favour of the British side and give them the second qualifying position in Group A.

Chile's runners-up berth would earn them a crack at the defending champions Brazil, a date Zamorano would relish especially as it brings him face to face with Ronaldo, his team-mate at Internazionale.

"He told me before the World Cup that Chile wouldn't make it past the first round," Zamorano said. "My dream would be to play Brazil, win the match and then exchange jerseys with Ronaldo."

The Chileans, making their seventh World Cup final appearance but their first for 16 years, have been eo-

couraged by the football they have played, but disappointed that they have only two points to show for it.

"We are one of the teams that plays the best football," said Zamorano. "We are champion players and we combine well as a team, even though we lack a little experience at this level."

With just a single point, Cameroon must win to stand a chance of qualifying for the second round while a third successive draw could be enough for the South Americans.

Claude Le Roy, the Frenchman in charge of Cameroon, predicted that his team will roar tonight even though "we are wounded lions". He added: "Morale is good and I have complete faith in my players. They've promised to pull out all the stops to qualify."

Despite their strong position the Italians are unhappy with the form they have displayed so far and believe they have to discover a killer instinct if they are to taste champ-

ionship glory for a record-equalling fourth time.

Their problem has not been in landing an early blow - both against Chile and again in the 3-0 follow-up win over Cameroon. Italy gained a quick advantage - but in building on it. Against Chile only a dubious late penalty saved them a point after Salas had worked his goalscoring magic.

There must be no such lapses in St Denis if Italy are to avoid a return match with Brazil in the second round, the side who beat them to the 1994 crown in a penalty shoot-out. Austria have twice saved themselves with last-minute equalisers and this time they have to go full-out for victory.

Paolo Maldini, the Italian captain and his father Cesare, the national coach, agree the problem comes down to self-confidence. "It's something we need to work on. We seem to have a psychological block once we take the lead," said Cesare.

"We have been struggling despite our better technique. We must be more determined. We are a great team of great players, with impressive physical and technical qualities."

"But we must improve our self-confidence to give ourselves a boost. We must feel great but we mustn't think we are in the second round already because that's dangerous."

A hat-trick claimed by Alessandro del Piero in a friendly at the weekend against a local French side has intensified the debate over who should partner Christian Vieri in attack. The Juventus star is still struggling with a groin problem but even so many Italians would have him in ahead of Roberto Baggio.

Austria's coach Herbert Prohaska also faces a striking problem as he and his side seek the victory they will surely need to qualify. He has to decide whether to allow Toni Polster - who will win a record 94th cap - to continue to plough a lone furrow up front.

GROUP B: THE PERMUTATIONS

The top two teams qualify for the second round, where they will meet the top two teams from Group A on 27 June. Qualification decided by (in order): points, goal difference, number of goals scored, outcome of encounter between the two sides, drawing lots.

1 Italy beat Austria; Chile beat Cameroon: Italy win group and Chile are runners-up.

2 Italy beat Austria; Chile draw with Cameroon: Italy win group and Chile are runners-up.

3 Italy beat Austria; Cameroon beat Chile: Italy win group and Cameroon are runners-up.

4 Italy draw with Austria; Chile beat Cameroon: Italy and Chile both finish with five points. Depending on the goals Italy score today, Chile would have to win by a margin of three or four goals to top the group.

5 Italy draw with Austria; Chile draw with Cameroon: Italy win group and Chile are runners-up.

6 Italy draw with Austria; Cameroon beat Chile: Italy win group and Cameroon are runners-up.

7 Austria beat Italy; Chile beat Cameroon: Austria and Chile both finish with five points. As long as Austria beat the Italians by a bigger margin, they will finish as group winners.

8 Austria beat Italy; Chile draw with Cameroon: Austria win group and Italy are runners-up.

9 Austria beat Italy; Cameroon beat Chile: Austria win group and Italy's superior goal difference makes them likely to finish runners-up. Depending on the goals Italy score today, Cameroon would have to at least overturn a goal difference of six to beat Italy to second place.

Preciado's precious strike

BY ANDREW LONGMORE
at Stade de la Mosson, Montpellier

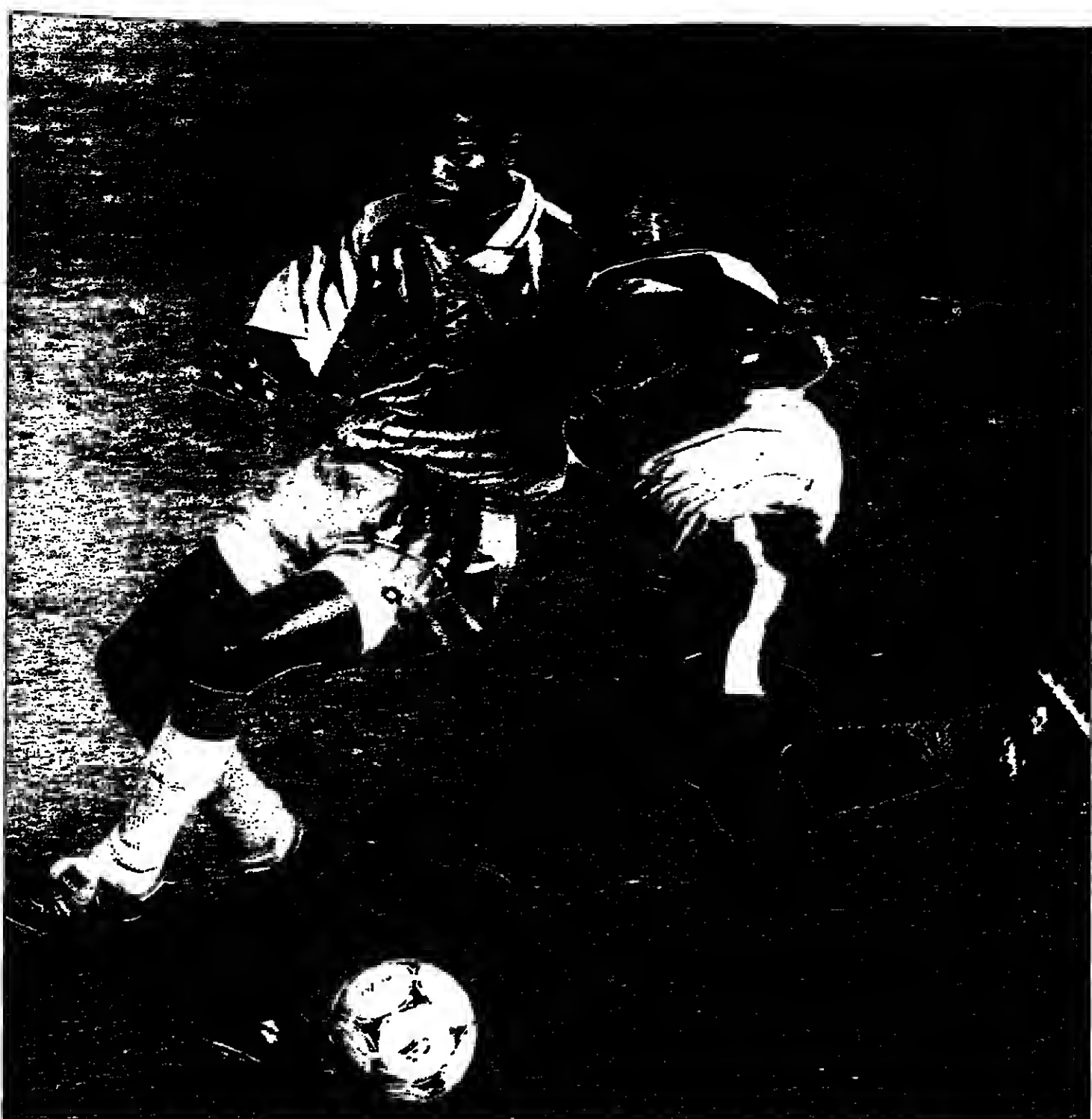
Colombia
Preciado 83
Tunisia
0
Att: 35,000

THERE IS NO such thing as a simple football match for Colombia, the crazy gang of world football. A week of internal dissension, presidential interference and debate which eclipsed the small matter of elections on Sunday ended with a desperate victory over Tunisia here yesterday. Glenn Hoddle will have watched with interest. But there was nothing to worry the sleep of the England coach before the final Group G match in Lens on Friday. Defending is not part of Colombia's repertoire.

It was a dull, thoroughly entertaining match, which could easily have ended 5-5 had either side possessed a striker even approaching the class of Alan Shearer or, dare one say it, Tino Asprilla. The thought will doubtless not be lost on the Colombian fans, who were just beginning to sense a revolution when Leider Preciado struck the decisive goal eight minutes from time. Most of the jeers were aimed at Carlos Valderrama, considered in some quarters to be the villain of the Asprilla affair and in most eyes to be well past his best, but it was Valderrama who set up the victory, winning the ball down the left before feeding Preciado. Preciado swayed past two defenders before planting his left foot shot off Chokri El-Ouair's outstretched right hand and into the net.

By then, most of the 35,000 crowd had given up hope of seeing a goal, though chances came and went with abandon. A draw was of little interest to either side, but no one expected a complete free-for-all. The Colombians lack any interest in such a disciplined art form; the Tunisians, in their second World Cup finals, are still learning. Shearer gave Sami Trabelsi a fearful time in Marseilles in England's comfortable victory. Without Asprilla, Colombia relied on the pace of Anthony De Avila, whose goal against Ecuador, subsequently dedicated to the founders of the Cali drug cartel in prison, took Colombia to France. At the age of 34, De Avila can no longer match his nickname, "El Muchacho", the Kid, but he never stopped harrying the Tunisian defence down both flanks and his crosses were at the heart of most of Colombia's best moments.

Valencia, handed the main striking duties in the absence of Asprilla, could have had a hat-trick in five minutes just before half-time, but his left-foot shot, dipping from 25 yards, flew just over, a crashing near-post header went wide and a near-post flick from a Valderrama free-kick, hit the post. The pace and space was



Tunisia's Jose Clayton is left helpless as Leider Preciado strikes the ball to score Colombia's goal yesterday

Reuters

more five-a-side. At the opposite end, Farid Mondragon, whose handling of crosses under pressure was suspect throughout, punched a corner on to the back of Riadh Bouazizi and watched the ball loop back on to his crossbar. Surprisingly, given the height difference between the two rugged Colombian centre-backs and the Tunisian forwards, Tunisia looked dangerous at almost every aerial set piece.

At the heart of their problems is

the charismatic figure of Valderrama, whose influence is at best sporadic, at worst destructive. Harold Lozano and Maurizio Serna will be old before their time making up their captain's mileage. Yet his judgement of a pass is still critical to Colombia's staccato style. De Avila's most productive spell midway through the first half was prompted by Valderrama's right foot. At other times, he is an expensive luxury.

The Tunisians deserved a better

fate. They played themselves to a standstill and Mehdi Ben Slimane and Adel Sellimi, who plays in France, will replay a catalogue of chances. Skander Souayah miscued a shot from 15 yards with the whole goal open and Sellimi got his feet in a tangle at the near post when only a touch was needed. Mondragon dealt erratically with the rest, though El-Ouair was the busier of the two goalkeepers, saving brilliantly from a Victor Aristizabal

header and minutes before the end from the goal-scorer, Preciado. **COLOMBIA** (4-3-3): Mondragon (Independiente); Calderon (Millonarios), Hernandez (Coca Cola), Pineda, Serna (Coca Cola), Nader (Nacional); Serna (Coca Cola), Lozano (Real Valladolid), Valderrama (Millonarios), Valderrama (Independiente Medellin), Salcedo (Independiente Medellin). **TUNISIA** (4-4-2): El-Ouair (Espérance); Thabet (Espérance), Chikhaoui (Espérance), S. Trabelsi (CS Sfaxien), Clayton (Espérance); Bouazizi (Espérance), Bouazizi (CS Sfaxien), Bouazizi (Espérance), Bouazizi (Espérance), Bouazizi (Espérance). **Referee**: S. Heymann (Germany).



DIARY

FOR ONE group of Scottish supporters, making their way yesterday to St Etienne for today's decisive group encounter with Morocco, it was not the match ticket that was priority nor indeed the availability of overnight accommodation in the French town. What mattered most to this family of six was that they would be first in the queue for a first-class ticket for the Eurostar journey from London to Paris. It would set each of them back £190 for the return journey but crucially it afforded them access to the bar and as much free drink as they could throw down their throats. In the case of this particular Edinburgh clan that proved to be a considerable amount of liquor. When they made the same journey for the Brazil game they drank their way through £300 worth of the strong-and-stronger stuff. They plan today to sleep off their drinking session on the four-hour train journey between Paris and St Etienne and will watch the action on a big screen.

LOVE TRULY conquers all, even those hard hearts of all who have agreed that tonight's confrontation between Brazil and Norway in Marseilles could be preceded by a match

of another kind - the marriage of a Norwegian, Olvind Ekeland, and a Brazilian, Rosângela de Souza, out on the pitch with a Catholic priest officiating and not a red card in sight. Keith Cooper, the Fifa spokesman, said they had a change of heart after initially rejecting the request. "We always talk about football bringing people together in a spirit of love, friendship and fraternity so we thought why are we saying no? We asked them not to tell the press because we didn't want a flood of similar requests, of Moroccans marrying Paraguayans and goodness knows what."

THE STAR names will think long and hard before agreeing to undertake an advertisement for a certain boot manufacturer after what can only be described as the curse of Adidas at this World Cup. In the build-up to the tournament TV viewers became familiar with a film showing in succession, Alessandro del Piero, David Beckham, Patrick Kluivert and Zinedine Zidane, all of whom have caused to regret the first two weeks of the competition.

Compiled by Trevor Haylett and Phil Shaw

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"It was the worst moment of my life. This World Cup can be no more fun for me anymore."
Egidius Braun, president of German football federation, breaks down at a press conference called in response to the attack on a gendarme by German thugs on Sunday.
"When we play against Saudi Arabia on Wednesday we will be playing for Brendan and Naughty. I think the matter could have been dealt with differently."
John Moshoeu, South African player, on team-mates **Brendan Augustine** and **Naughty Moshoeu**, sent home for breaking curfew.
"I'm having as much fun as I ever did. I feel as if I've never been away."
Germany's World Cup record-breaker Lothar Matthäus.

Stoichkov and Penev in peril

HRISTO STOICHKOV, Bulgaria's maverick talent, is the latest player to become embroiled in allegations of hounding the candle at both ends at France 98. After a pair of Norwegians gained notoriety and a couple of South Africans were sent packing for bouts of all-night carousing, Stoichkov and his fellow striker Lyuboslav Penev are the latest to be in trouble for apparently staying out all night in Paris two days before a World Cup match.

Ivan Vutsov, general secretary of the Bulgarian football union, said the pair had headed for Paris on Sunday night without permission, and had not returned to the team hotel on the outskirts of the city by morning.

The players appeared at the hotel early on Monday afternoon, telling journalists they had overslept in their rooms and had not been woken. Vutsov said a decision on disciplinary action would be taken by the coach, Hristo Bonev, and announced before the team's training session yesterday evening.

The Mexican official Arturo

Brizio-Carter, who sent off both Zinedine Zidane, of France, and South Africa's Alfred Phiso with two of the finals' more dubious refereeing decisions, will be the man in black for England's meeting with Colombia on Friday.

Hopefully Glenn Hoddle will be happier with Sar Brizio-Carter's performance than the Danes were with that of the Colombian referee who sent off two Danish players in their Group C draw with South Africa. Denmark have written to Fifa, football's world governing body, to express their dissatisfaction with John Jairo Toro Rendon. A spokesman for the Danes, Lars Berendt, said the letter to the disciplinary commission was not a formal complaint but an expression of their feelings after a match that also saw three Danes receive yellow cards.

"We didn't want to protest, because we would not have gained anything by it," Berendt said. "But we felt we had to at least draw Fifa's attention to the more or less debatable behaviour of this referee."

IN ALL my years of playing and watching football I have never known anything close to the atmosphere in Lyons on Saturday evening when the USA played Iran.

The noise from the Iranian fans was at a consistency you do not associate with a football game. There were no natural pauses or silences, just fluctuations in the volume between "very loud" and "deafening".

I had the misfortune to have BBC identification on my press pass, so almost every Iranian was bent on explaining all the subtle intricacies of Iranian politics to me in comparison. I think I got to the fourth faction before realising that it was a futile exercise and I was better off concentrating on the game. This wasn't difficult because it had everything you would hope for on the field and then some.

Whether the hype or the extraordinary media frenzy before the game had an effect I'm not sure, but the Americans flew at the shocked Iranian defence from the start. Brian McBride, Joe-Max Moore and Claudio Reyna all shot very



PAT NEVIN

dangerously from distance, and Frankie Hejduk, the "soccer surfer", put enough energy into his early right wing overlaps to make you wonder if he should have been drug-tested after the game.

At the back the US team looked less assured. David Regis, the proud owner of a green card for nearly two whole months now, looked desperate to add yellow and red ones to his collection. Chumsness abounded and even Kasey Keller was fortunate to stay on the park after Khodadad Azizi showed another lightning turn of pace. The referee's only mistakes of the evening were not to give a

penalty or sending off after that.

Azizi immediately looked the player with real class in the Iranian ranks; this probably had much to do with the ridiculous Da-Glo boots he was sporting. But as he pivoted round the American defenders it became easy to see why he was the Asian player of the year two seasons ago, and why the sponsors singled him out for the frightening footwear.

Ali Daei, his old-fashioned English-style centre-forward partner, hustled and hustled to some effect but as the game wore on, it became obvious who the real star of the team was.

The 21-year-old Mehdi Mahdavi of Iranian club Piroz Tehran is rumoured to be on the move to China. This is very unlikely after his display against the Americans. Fifteen minutes into the game I could just imagine Bundesliga scouts flicking through their electronic files to find out whether Mahdavi has an agent. By half-time the Spaniards were probably on the case, and by the time he scored Iran's stunning second goal, Serie A was looking the most likely destination. I've rarely been so impressed on

the first viewing of a young player. He played like André Kanchelskis, only better, and with a bit more pace too. Granted it was only against the United States, but the intelligence of his movement was of the very highest order.

If there had been a player of true international class supporting him, who had vision and who could pass, Mahdavi could have scored five or six. Before he did score his goal the Iranians had deservedly gone ahead through an Hamid Estili header. The Americans then dominated the Iranians for the rest of the game only to succumb to the sucker punch of a breakaway goal. The US could still have clawed their way back on to level terms after their late consolation goal, but defensive naivety was their downfall.

Iran conversely looked very assured, particularly in the centre of their defence where three confident markers, led by the veteran Nader Mohammadkhani, soaked up constant pressure from the Americans.

On this form Iran may still pose a threat to a German side that, though still exuding passion with

efficiency, have begun to show the first signs of wear and tear. It will be no walkover and the Iranians will once again be backed by that incredible if slightly confusing crowd.

By the end of Tuesday night's match, I like everyone else there felt exhausted but exhilarated. This was one of those unforgettable nights in World Cup history. A game of excitement from start to finish, played in front of a crowd who added at least as much to the game as the players did themselves. In fact the Iranians were so loud that the commendable number of travelling Americans could not make themselves heard, and it isn't often you can say that.

For all the poignant moments however, including every American and Iranian perfectly observing each other's national anthem, the ability of football to transcend everything will be the lasting memory.

The atmosphere, though charged, still remained friendly. Some journalists may want to paint a darker picture, but everyone I met there will remember this balmy evening for as long as they live, for the most positive of reasons.

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"I wonder what the results would have been like if the Jamaican team that actually qualified for the World Cup had actually played in the World Cup. I think for one that it would have been a more cohesive team since they had been playing together for so long. The introduction of all those new English-based players certainly seemed to have backfired." **Jamaican fan called "Rockers"** comments on his country's exit from the tournament on an Internet chat site.

"We should bow at his feet once more. Gabriel Batistuta is a spectacular goal scorer - he is obsessed with goals. And Ortega is capable of everything." **"Ole"**, Argentine sports paper, after three goals from Batistuta and two from Ortega bring a 5-0 win over Jamaica.

"Everything worked: goalkeeper Ivica Kralj, the defence, midfield and the two strikers. But our forte was our midfield, which held all the strings. Goran Djorovic and Sinisa Mihajlovic played phenomenally. We played modern football, while Germany's was a little outdated, with a libero. If the Germans don't make some changes in their midfield, they will not fare very well. Bierhoff and Klinsmann appear to lack ready solutions - all they do is wait for a break and score after a free-kick or a corner. I am sure in the coming games other teams will prepare for this and neutralise them with relative ease. And we must not rest on our laurels and think we can beat the Americans easily." **Former Yugoslavia and Arsenal midfielder Vladimir Petrovic** after 2-2 draw against Germany.

"This is what's most damning about the US team's loss to Iran last night in what has become an embarrassing disgraceful World Cup failure: The Americans played a terrific, aggressive game... and they still lost. That tells our soccer playing nation that everyone involved with the US national team vastly overestimated the talent America brought to this World Cup. The US remains where it has for as long as World Cups have been staged: Well behind the rest of the world. For the US side to truly believe it was second-round worthy in this tournament of dominant soccer-playing countries showed an audacity that perhaps only we confident Americans can justify." **"New York Post"**.

Compiled by Rupert Metcalf

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Super Eagles 'can win the cup'

THE NIGERIAN coach, Bora Milutinovic, yesterday claimed that his Super Eagles could go all the way to World Cup glory.

Nigeria, tipped by many for a starring performance at these finals, are already assured of a berth in the second round following Group D wins over the pre-tournament favourites for the section, Spain, and Bulgaria.

Milutinovic was trying to keep his optimism under wraps at his training base today as he prepared his men to face Paraguay in Toulouse tomorrow. But there was no hiding his satisfaction with the side's six points.

"The team have played two matches and won them both, but we've got another one against Paraguay and then we'll find out who we're playing next," said the Serb.

"I'm very happy for the team with the way things have gone," he went on. "Everything convinces me about this side, because these players on their day can beat anyone. They've got great talent and they play all their matches to win."

The question which many people want answered at France 98 is whether the popular Nigerians can go all the way and make football history by becoming the first African side to win the trophy.

Milutinovic's verdict was: "Why not? There are other teams who are better than us but in life, and in the World Cup finals, everything is possible."

"The important thing, I believe, is to play with confidence, with enthusiasm and with team spirit."

Milutinovic claimed he had

not taken revenge on the critics who, shortly before the finals, had questioned whether he was the right man for the job.

"I'm just trying to do the things which I think need to be done, and it's difficult to keep everyone happy," he said. "For the moment, we're all just focusing on the game against Paraguay the next match after that and then we'll see whether the team goes forward."

Milutinovic denied that he had already thought about possible future plans, saying: "A coach never plans - other people decide."

The pain of losing a two-goal lead to Germany was doubled for Yugoslavia's coach, Slobodan Santrac, yesterday as he grappled with a lengthy injury list. Five players took knocks, giving Santrac a possible selection headache for Yugoslavia's final Group F game with the United States in Nantes on Thursday.

The striker Darko Kovacevic picked up a thigh muscle injury against Germany and is rated doubtful for the US game. Zeljko Petrovic, who has answered his critics with two fine performances at left-back, was also limping after he suffered a cramp and acute muscle spasms on Sunday.

The defenders Zoran Mirkovic and Miroslav Djukic both missed the 2-2 draw with Germany and are doubtful for Thursday. Mirkovic has a leg injury while Djukic suffered a calf strain in training prior to the game. The fifth player on the injury list is Milan's Dejan Savicevic, who has missed both Yugoslavia's games so far with a knee problem.



Nigeria's coach, Bora Milutinovic (left), discusses tactics with his striker Victor Ikpeba at a training session in Toulouse yesterday. A draw Dominico Sinella/AP

Naughty partner offers apology

BRENDAN AUGUSTINE, expelled from South Africa's World Cup squad alongside his fellow player Naughty Mokone, apologised yesterday for letting his team-mates down.

The pair were sent home after breaking a curfew and made an emotional departure from the team's headquarters. In a brief statement, Augustine said he apologised to his team-mates for "for having let them down at such a crucial stage in the World Cup by breaking team curfew this weekend in Vichy."

At the same time, squad officials disclosed that there had been two previous incidents in Vichy, where players broke curfews set by the coach, Philippe Troussier. A group of 15 was involved in the first incident and five in the second, two days later. They will all face fines.

A tearful Augustine and a contrite Mokone refused to speak to journalists as they left the team hotel by car for Paris, but Augustine released his statement later.

"Although there were a number of factors that led to me breaking my curfew, my behaviour was unprofessional and unnecessary," he said.

No details of the "factors" were given, but Augustine was understood to have been unhappy with his substitution by Troussier at half-time in South Africa's 1-1 draw with Denmark in Toulouse last Thursday.

"I sincerely regret my actions and hope to have the opportunity to represent my country in the future," said the Austrian-based player, who has 29 international caps.

"The decision will not affect us for the match," said the goalkeeper, Hans Vonk. "What it does more is to affect the image of South Africa."

Both Augustine, 26, and Mokone, 23, were suspended by South African Football Association officials after a meeting on Sunday. They were expected to board a flight to Johannesburg last night.

The South Africans say they expect no favours from France as they try to overtake Denmark for the runners-up spot in Group C tomorrow.

South Africa need to beat Saudi Arabia handsomely in their final group match in Bordeaux and hope the French hosts do the same against Denmark in Lyon to have a chance of going through to the second round.

John Moshoeu, who will win his 49th cap if he keeps his place in midfield, said South Africa should not be distracted by the French game against Denmark. "We mustn't look to depend on them," he said. "We must win our game and try to score as many as we can. We can't budget on just a few goals and hope that the French hammer Denmark."

"We have to go out and do it ourselves. But Saudi Arabia cannot be taken for granted and will be no walkover."

The defender Pierre Issa said he believed a new-look French team, without the suspended playmaker Zinedine Zidane, would beat Denmark.

"The players who have been on the bench and will now get a chance will play as best they can to assure they stay in the team," he said. "That's good for South Africa but we have decided in the team to just concentrate on our own game and worry about the Denmark result after the game."

Vonk said the South African team were focused on the match. "We've had some trouble but the players are professional and know what awaits them if they win," he said. "We can achieve a place in the next round."

South Africa leave Vichy for Bordeaux today and are expected to make just one change in the team that drew with Denmark. The left-winger Delron Buckley is expected to take the place of Augustine.

Sacking the coach, Carlos Alberto Parreira, has eased the pressure on the Saudi Arabian team and boosted morale, the president of their World Cup delegation has said.

Prince Khalid Bin Bader Ben Saud said he expected the team to improve against South Africa on Wednesday. "The team are in good spirits. We have noticed a real change in their state of mind," he said.

Parreira was sacked on Saturday after his side lost 4-0 to France. They had lost their opening game 1-0 to Denmark. Mohammad Al-Kharashi has been named caretaker coach.

Italy versus Austria

(It'll be a game of two halves... and possibly a slice of pizza!)



Nastro Azzurro would like to wish both teams good fortune and a stylish game. But, being Italy's numero uno beer, you can imagine who we hope will have had a belly full by the final whistle tonight. After all, you have to look after Numero Uno.

Peroni's Nastro Azzurro. Italy's Numero Uno Beer.

Hooligan, moi? OK, guv, a fair cop

BRITISH FANS in Toulouse continue to do terrible things to the French language ("cherches tickets" reads one sign being brandished around town, "cherchez femme" another), rampaging all over the most elementary rules of grammar with apparent impunity. Meanwhile, the mystery of my missing denim jacket took a surprising new twist yesterday when an England supporter was spotted wearing a denim jacket bearing a prima facie resemblance to the stolen garment. To be precise, I spotted him. Since the French police were not giving the matter top priority, I had to take the law into my own hands and follow the suspect at a safe distance.

He was a tough-looking customer, wiry, unshaven (except for his head), with the trademark portable phone to stay in touch with his cohorts, and whistling "Vindaloo". An obvious thug. Category C written all over him. Plus he was with a bunch of beery mates, blocking the traffic and looking for trouble.

I was nearly forced to revise my dim view of the lackadaisical attitude of the French police when I saw a dozen or so CRS riot-control specialists move in and arrest them. It was only when I got closer that I realised they weren't arresting them - they were shaking hands with them. The plot was thickening.

The England "fans" were, I discovered, none other than "spotters" (or, as the French much more grandly call them, "physiognomists of Scotland Yard"). I had spotted a spotter. Although hopelessly outnumbered, I put to them the Hoddle agent provocateur theory, that the police had shrewdly engineered things so that they could pitch in and start arresting a few people. "Us?" replied one of the spotters, a heavy dude with a floppy moustache and an outrageously shiny yellow shirt. "It's you - you're the ones who do it - the media mob. You guys exacerbate everything. There's more cameramen and sound recordists in



ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



the street than anyone else. And whenever you turn up, there's always trouble."

After the initial naïve pointing of the finger at drunken fans, the ingenious idea that it is journalists who are the real troublemakers has caught on in France, inducing a state of collective hysteria and paranoia. At the Mexico training camp, for example, a Mexican photographer, Simon José Luis Rodriguez, was roughed up by bouncers and kicked out after being mistaken for a South Korean spy, on account of his "Asiatic features". In Lens, similarly, a Brazilian reporter was hospitalised.

There is a curious parallel between the *Evenements* of 1968 and the World Cup of 1998. Guy Debord's recently re-published *Société du spectacle*, which argued that we were suffering from a lack of reality and that everything was a stunt, an illusion, conjured up by a sinister conspiracy of capitalistic and political forces, provided a manual for the 1968 pseudo-revolution. If there were no real events, then we might as well stage one - a happening, a party with barricades and Molotov cocktails. Ironically, the whole thing turned out to be a great non-event that changed nothing. It is possible that the World Cup will do more to change the world (eg in Iran).

The Parisian sociologist Jean Baudrillard is not the only one to carry on the Debord tradition and represent everything as the invention of the media. Now every passing nutter without a CSE to his name is a post-modernist, convinced that the latest mayhem is nothing other than an exercise in the hyper-

real. Or, in other words, it is all the fault of the media for making it up. I saw a cameraman set upon by a group of hostiles in the street in Toulouse. "Oi, you. You're scum, you are," growled one of the gang, who had recently been holding hands across the boulevard and lying in front of buses while singing "Rule Britannia". "We're just here to have a bit of fun, and you make us out as hooligans. I ought to do you for that!"

It was only the fact that the cameraman happened to be standing next to a bus packed with CRS that stopped him being duly done. There were other cases around town where the journalists were not so conveniently positioned and found themselves the victims of instant street censorship, and had their gear and faces smashed. I was coward enough to stuff my pen in my pocket and replace it with a can of Heineken, which I toted about by way of cover. "What me? Nah, I'm not a journalist, I'm a hooligan." "Oh, that's all right then."

The police have a bit of post-modern tendency as well, of course. They have this habit of not only asking questions but of coming up with convenient answers. I ought to learn this trick. In reality, what the big heavy Scotland Yard physiognomist said, as he stood up well to my feeble interrogation, was "you're a hopeless bloody journalist, you are, you're no good at interviewing anyone." What I should have had him saying was more along the lines of "OK, guv'nor, we did it. You've got us bang to rights this time and no mistake. I stole your denim jacket, I did, and please take 37 similar cases into consideration."

SPORT



JANZEN FINDS THE OLYMPIC IDEAL P27 • RICHARDSON GUNNING FOR HIS MENTOR P23

Fans crank up the pressure on Henman

By JOHN ROBERTS
at Wimbledon

BEFORE THE country's sporting passions were transferred from Henman to England versus Romania last night, there was a good deal of frustration along with the flag-waving at the All England Club.

With a shout of "Get your kit off, Henman!" echoing around Court No 1 - a reminder that British tennis has a slightly different tone nowadays - the 23-year-old from Oxford remained as outwardly calm and tastefully dressed as usual while winning his opening match.

It was on Wimbledon's newest show court last year that Tim Henman's campaign ended with a defeat in his second consecutive quarter-final. He failed to rise to the occasion against Michael Stich, the 1991 champion from Germany, who was playing his farewell Grand Slam tournament.

Although the atmosphere was in keeping with an overture yesterday, Henman betrayed signs that inwardly he was nervous, his performance confirming what champions, from Pete Sampras down through time, have said, that the first match is often the most difficult, emotionally if not technically.

Henman was expected to overwhelm his opponent yesterday, not least because Jiri Novak, a Czech ranked No 71 in the world, had arrived in London only a few hours before the match.

There are many ways to prepare for competition on Wimbledon's lawns. Some players chose to play in one of the lead up tournaments on grass court, here or in Europe. Others prefer to rest after months on the slow clay courts and then practise in England or on their own patch.

Novak's feet were still sliding on clay last week as he participated in an ATP Tour Challenger tournament in Zagreb, reasoning that he would be more likely to win ranking points on a familiar surface. He succeeded, too, defeating a fellow journeyman, Mariano Puerto, of Argentina, in straight sets in the final. That was on Sunday morning, and Novak caught a flight to Heathrow yesterday morning.

Scheduled to play Henman in the concluding match on Court No 1, he probably came with the attitude that anything he gained would be a bonus. The sight of the flags of St George was a clear indication of the mood of the spectators - Henman was expected to deliver.

The British No 2, while erratic on certain points, made an encouraging start, breaking for 3-1 in the opening set when his opponent missed with a forehand. Spectators began to shuffle uneasily when Henman was broken back for 4-3, hitting a backhand volley wide.

Although threatening Novak through several duces towards the end of the set, Henman let himself down on crucial points, particularly on the forehand. When it came to a tie-break however, he managed to hold his nerve, even after double-faulting when leading, 3-1. He clinched the shoot-out, 7-4, in his second set point after 48 minutes.

Henman then edged the second set, regaining a break, crucially, for 7-5. Novak, however, silenced the British cheers by winning the third set, 7-5.

For a player who was supposed to have lost his confidence, Sampras settled nicely into his defence of the men's singles title, defeating the Slovak Dominik Hrbaty, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2, after an hour and 21 minutes.

As Sampras said: "If you can't get up for an event like this, you shouldn't be playing the game." None the less, the American world No 1 surprised many people with the way he was able to set aside months of disappointing form.

"I don't know if it's mental or what it is, but this place over the years has brought out the best in me, and you get a little bit more keyed up and fired up going out there at 2 o'clock on Monday," he said.

Hrbaty, a 20-year-old ranked No

46, came close to defeating Sampras in the fourth round of the 1997 Australian Open. The American trailed, 1-4, in the fifth set, recovering to win, 6-4. Sampras reasoned that a repeat of that marathon was unlikely.

"They were completely different circumstances," he said. "In Australia we played on a very hot day on a surface [rubberised concrete] that Dominik's a little bit more comfortable playing on. I was down and out, and I ended up winning that match and winning the tournament. Today I was playing on one of my favourite surfaces, and he came out a little bit nervous. But I thought I played pretty well, and served quite well."

Although Sampras's first serve wavered occasionally, he had faith in his second delivery. "Your second serve is even more important than your first serve on the grass," he said. "You're only as good as your second serve."

In that respect, Sampras was well above average, with 73 per cent of his second deliveries finding the target, although he double-faulted eight times. His returns were even more impressive, 79 per cent of the counters landing in, and he was able to convert six of 12 break points. Thirty-nine of Sampras's serves were unreturned.

His volleying skill tended to unsettle Hrbaty, who must have wondered how Sampras contrived to punch home winners even when his strings had broken. "I go to church a lot," Sampras said with a smile.

Petr Korda, the No 3 seed who is endeavouring to build on his success at the Australian Open in January, having turned 30, made encouraging start, defeating the Spaniard Javier Sanchez (the brother of Emilio and Arantxa), 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Tournament officials tend to take a deep breath whenever the American Jeff Tarango is in town - any town. Tarango is always eager to show that he is a player of substance rather than a tempestuous sideshow. He went about his business yesterday, recovering after losing the opening set, 1-6, to defeat the experienced Dutchman Paul Haarhuis, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-0.



Andre Agassi serving on his way to victory at Wimbledon yesterday. Back where he belongs, page 24

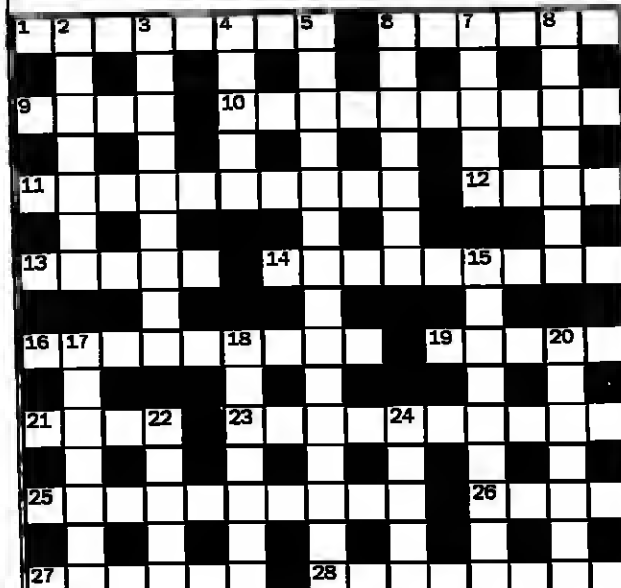
Robert Hallam

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3644, Tuesday 23 June

By Aired

Monday's Solution



HIGHNESS COVERUP
E R N S R T A T
RHONE CLUBHAT
R S I E A I I
INGENERAL RIDER
C R Y I O
KRAILY ANCHORMAN
I R I E U E
CONCERNED SILES
TOPIC TORCHSONG
S E H O W E D N
PUTPAINTO ALIBI
A R N A O T S E
WEALTHY OARHONEY

ACROSS

- 1 Is around in fossilised form? (8)
- 6 High moral character of compassion about ancient city (6)
- 9 Murphy brings power into the south of France (4)
- 10 A lot to pay to get a drier mended for low-ranking officer (10)
- 11 Tender name? Could be (4)
- 12 Marsupial on fellow's tiles (4)
- 13 The last mouth to have gold painting (5)
- 14 Rising noises can disturb (9)
- 16 Machine bed needs toning up (6-3)
- 19 Strong worker on Friday's disheartened (5)

DOWN

- 2 Mischievous type with gloomy Dean's influence (7)
- 3 Presumably the events bat on as misfits? (3-3-3)
- 4 Colour of American presented to British Queen (5)
- 5 Skill in trumpets needed to play this fairytale character (15)
- 6 Power to move fast and talk idly (7)
- 7 It can locate woman in posh car (5)
- 8 Apply restrictions to car painter (7)
- 15 Unbelieving one left after getting infection and catching cold (9)
- 17 Could be gear's a shocker (7)
- 18 Very much other than 50% (3-4)
- 20 Try us after play's growing rapidly (7)
- 22 Kenyan mother's first-class (5)
- 24 Finish off English-speaking Union? (5-2)

Bassir determined to make his mark

FOOTBALL

THE MOROCCO striker Salabeddine Bassir, without a goal in France 98 after being tipped by coach Henri Michel to be one of the stars of the tournament, is ready to make Scotland suffer in St Etienne tonight.

The Deportivo La Coruna forward has been promised a better service by his teammates, after he failed to score against both Norway and Brazil, and he is determined to succeed in after being criticised by Michel.

The Frenchman had been banking on the 25-year-old to fire Morocco's Group A campaign after a stunning double in the Hassan II tournament in

Casablanca, but that has so far proved to be a misleading guide.

"After the two magnificent goals he scored against France I thought he would be one of the stars of the World Cup," Michel said. "But that hasn't been the case. Against Norway he had an excuse, as we just pumped high balls up to him."

"Although he jumps well, he could not compete against the Norwegian giants. In the Brazil match, though, he was among those who did nothing. His ball control and dribbling were both poor, and so was his performance."

Bassir, of course, saw things rather differently, but still appreciates that the team are

looking to him to lead the line against Scotland.

"It's true that against Norway I did not receive many good passes, but I did play a part in the move that led to our second goal," he said. "I gave the ball to Tahar and then went on a decoy run which 'Camacho' (Hadda) then took advantage of."

"Against Brazil it was different. Each time I received the ball, I had two Brazilians on my back and few team-mates in support."

"Since then I've had some long chats with my colleagues. I now believe that against Scotland they will give me some easier passes to deal with, so I should have a better chance of scoring."

'Magnificent' Brown

AS FAR as Pat Crerand is concerned Craig Brown "has been absolutely magnificent" and will further enhance his reputation as a manager when Scotland move into the second stage of the World Cup finals.

Crerand, the 59-year-old former Scotland, Celtic and Manchester United midfielder, believes Brown's side will beat Morocco today and qualify for the last 16.

"Craig and the team have been magnificent in France," he said. "It won't be easy against Morocco, but maybe that 3-0 de-

feat by Brazil has damaged their confidence."

"The great thing for me is that Scotland qualified in the first place. We are such a small nation. It's a feat in itself and I think Brown has been absolutely magnificent. Frankly few people outside Scotland have even heard of him, but his credentials have been established in this World Cup."

"What has impressed me about Scotland is that they have no big stars. It all works together into a fine squad with a coach who knows what he's doing."

Crerand has been impressed with the contribution of John Collins and Paul Lambert. "It's because they've been playing in Europe for Monaco and Dortmund," he said. "That experience has been vital - you can see a standard of play from them which underlines that they have been playing at a very high level."

Kevin Gallacher, the pacy Blackburn Rovers striker, and Rangers' hard-working Gordon Durie have also caught Crerand's eye.

Rare expectancy, page 28

MORSE

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TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

The two faces of Michael

Michael Laudor is a schizophrenic who battled with his demons and won. Hollywood paid \$1.5m for his story; Brad Pitt was going to play him. But a tale of triumph over adversity has become a horror story. Michael Laudor cracked, and stabbed his pregnant girlfriend to death



Now what is Hollywood to do with the story of Michael Laudor? To be faithful to reality, any film about him must now include a frenzied thriller scene - Laudor stabbing his pregnant fiancée to death with a glinting kitchen knife. Such gore is the industry's stock-in-trade, of course, but this was to be a movie about hope and, specifically, about one man's triumph over his mental demons. Now it is the other way about.

Last Wednesday, in the apartment he shared with his victim, 37-year-old Caroline Costello, Laudor's illness fought back.

In time, Laudor, a husky bear of a man and a brilliant graduate of the Yale Law School, may reveal to us the impulse that drove him to slaughter the woman he loved, the woman known to friends as Carrie, and who was bearing his child. What - or who - possessed him to leave her dying on the kitchen floor, with 10 stab wounds to her neck and chest? What compelled him to flee in her black Honda to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, 170 miles to the north, only to give himself up on arrival to campus police?

It is his talent for autobiography that won Mr Laudor the attentions of Hollywood in the first place. His gift came to light in an interview with the *New York Times* in 1995, in which he detailed his battles with the symptoms of his illness. There were terrifying hallucinations, such as becoming trapped in rooms engulfed in flames, and paranoid delusions, like the time he watched mesmerised in horror at blood dripping from the teeth of a work colleague.

The interest generated by the interview prompted him to write an 80-page proposal for a book about his life. Literary agents in Manhattan were electrified by what he had written. Here was a person considered a genius by everyone who knew him describing vividly and with absolute candour a petrifying journey into the blackness of mental despair.

What really appealed, however, was the notion that Laudor, after eight months in a mental facility and with the help of drugs, was beating back the darkness and finding light again. He was could be cast as a model for surviving schizophrenia - a beacon for his fellow sufferers. Scribner, the publisher, gave him a book contract for \$600,000. It was not long before Ron Howard, of *Imagine Entertainment*, gave him a \$1.5m contract for a film of his book. Brad Pitt was earmarked to play Laudor. Tentatively called, "Laws of Madness", the project was scheduled to shoot this September.

A glimpse at that 80-page proposal quickly reveals the power in Laudor's tale. Raised in New Rochelle, a New York suburb just a few miles from Hastings-on-Hudson, he was born into a talented family. With a university economics professor for a father, he breezed through school and went onto Yale, from where he graduated in three years, a year faster than normal for undergraduates, with a raft of glittering honours.

From Yale, he went to work for Bain and Company, a management consultancy firm in Boston. It was while he was at Bain that the then self-assured associate first began - another inadequate cliché - to lose his mind. One of his first

delusions was about his devoted secretary, Abby. In his book proposal he wrote how he began to see her as a dangerous and satanic enemy. "One minute we were standing in a well-lit room, and in another second, like a candle flickering, we were in darkness flashing on and off and there was blood dripping from her teeth as her clawed hands reached for me".

With the hallucinations becoming more frequent, Laudor left Bain and returned to New Rochelle. Whilst in the sanctuary of his parents' home, he began an intense romantic relationship with an old schoolfriend. But the relationship quickly broke up and Laudor, dejected and desperate, began a novel and played once a week

them came just as the doctors suggested releasing him from hospital.

But even as he told his brother, Danny, to say yes to Yale, his mental state was uneven. In the same breath, he yelled, "The monkeys are eating my brains! Stop them, Danny!"

At Yale, he was watched over by the dean of the school, Guido Calabresi, who said that if Yale could accommodate the handicapped with wheelchairs by installing ramps, then they would find ways to accommodate Laudor. His, simply, would be an "invisible wheelchair", the dean decreed.

Laudor thrived in the academic cradle of Yale. He graduated, again with honours, and was given

with a jazz group at a local bookshop. His visions seemed to be fed by characters in the book he was writing, including Nazi agents.

"I would be walking... when suddenly I would see Nazis in trench coats with their hands dipping into their pockets, reaching for guns as I would dive for cover."

He began to see his musician friends as members of a bizarre cult, "some sort of Moonie or neo-Nazi group intent on kidnapping me". In time, the delusions even began to involve his devoted mother and father. He writes of bursting into their room one day at 3am to "accuse my parents of being impostors, of having killed my real parents while they themselves were neo-Nazi agents altered by special surgery and trained to mimic my parents". He even rushed up to the house's attic to in an attempt to seek out the "bodies of my dead parents".

Finally, Laudor went into psychiatric treatment and was admitted to the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, where he was to stay confined for eight months.

For a long while, the ravings persisted. "The Nazi agents pretending to be my parents came every day," he recounted. He would greet them by assuming positions of the martial art *karate* *do*. In the meantime, however, Laudor had applied to seven of the country's most prestigious law schools. Acceptance letters from each of

two-year scholarship to remain there conducting research. In that time, he resumed his friendship with the wheelchair Ms Costello, herself a Yale graduate who was then working for the computer giant, IBM. Their relationship quickly developed into a full-blown romance.

The mental tortures suffered by Laudor were known to Ms Costello. She stayed by the side of a deeply troubled man most women would have fled from. In 1995, the year of the *Times* interview, Laudor's father, Charles, died from prostate cancer. His death, friends said, utterly devastated Michael. During the worst of his delusional episodes, it had often been his father who had brought Laudor back to reality.

During Michael's infernal visions, his father would urge him to put his head out to touch the flames and thus to discover that they existed only in his mind. Now living in Hudson-on-Hastings with the woman he wanted to marry, Laudor apparently suffered other setbacks.

The book that Scribner had asked to him to complete was not coming easily. Indeed, it remains unfinished. In the past year, moreover, Laudor began to complain that the drugs his doctors had prescribed to control the visions were proving less and less effective. Then, last Wednesday, Laudor's mother, Ruth, telephoned the police in Hudson saying she had received an especially frightening call from her son in the

morning. She feared for the welfare of both him and Carrie, who had taken the day off for "personal emergency" reasons from her job at the Edison Project, a private education company that runs public schools in some states. Mrs Laudor begged the police the police to send a cruiser to the apartment.

A police officer was dispatched and let in by the superintendent of the building. The bloody scene inside, Carrie in a pool of her own blood, confirmed the mother's worst fears. By dusk, Laudor was on his way back to Hudson-on-Hastings in handcuffs.

Why he had gone to Cornell was unclear. He had one link with the campus, however: a visit there as a teenager to participate in a summer camp for talented young writers.

Charged already with second-degree murder, Laudor is on suicide watch in a county jail as he awaits the start of his trial. Randy Banner, a journalist and long-time friend of Laudor's, is one of a few who have been able to meet him.

"I look at his eyes, which I have done many, many times, but they are somebody else's eyes," she said of a meeting with him last Friday. "If you can fathom that, they are somebody else's eyes."

Examining what courses through the brains of schizophrenics is hard even for the professionally trained. For those people, the tragedy of Michael Laudor could hold depressing and frightening consequences. It will fuel pre-conceptions and prejudices about sufferers of schizophrenia as people who are prone to violence and who cannot be trusted in wider society. It is sickly sad that it should be Laudor who leaves that legacy, when he had been seen as a victim of the disease, offering so much inspiration to other people.

"We thought, what a wonderful and courageous thing it was for him to step up and say people of talent and accomplishment can have schizophrenia and they can manage it and keep moving forward," commented Laurie Flynn, a spokeswoman for the National Alliance for the Mentally III. Now the book may never be finished and Brad Pitt is unlikely ever to portray Michael Laudor. As one Hollywood insider remarked: "It is not a Ron Howard film any more."

BY DAVID USBORNE



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INCLUDING 5 PAGES OF JOBS

2/COMMENT AND LETTERS

Stop blubbing,
Branson

THE NEWS, headlined recently on the front page of *The Mirror*, that Richard Branson has joined the ranks of celebrity child abuse victims, having been obliged to mess around with an older boy at his public school, will doubtless have spoken eloquently to the thousands of middle-class, middle-aged men who, like Richard, passed most of their childhood at boarding schools. Perhaps, on behalf of these people, I could summarise our response.

Oh boo-hoo, Branson. Why don't you go and blub behind the rhododendrons?

Because, say what you like about the old-fashioned boarding-school education, it did at least set you up with an excellent basic grounding in the whole important area of messing around.

TERENCE
BLACKER

Caning is worse than low-grade sexual abuse

Of course, we messed around. We were adolescent boys, locked away from the world, frustrated and confused. Boredom bung in the air like the stale smell of cabbage, toast and old jockstraps. What else were we to do? It even happened at my public school which, in messing around as in most other areas, was in the second rank, our bewildered gropings in the dorm comparing badly to the sophisticated daisy-chains of misbehaviour that existed in rival establishments.

At my prep school, on the other hand - an establishment now mercifully defunct - child abuse of one kind or another was a central part of the curriculum and one which, bewildered innocents that we were, took as a natural part of the educational process. Only after we had left, for example, did any of us begin to wonder whether the Latin master's method of marking our unseams and parsing was entirely normal.

As you stood beside his desk in class, his hand would be up the leg of your shorts, caressing gently until he came across an inaccuracy which he corrected with a tender pinch. While this teaching method was not entirely welcome (his hands

were extraordinarily cold), it was generally thought to be preferable to those favoured by other masters - the violent tweaking of the short hairs at the back of your neck, the sudden, unprovoked hurling of a hard blackboard duster, the slaps around the back of the head as you worked on a sum.

Now, this is tricky. Without wanting to justify the Latin master's behaviour - life is complicated enough without acquiring a reputation as the paedophile's friend - I have no doubt that this low-grade, unthreatening abuse, which would have horrified our parents had they known about it, was incomparably less harmful to us than the institutionalised sadism which they not only knew about but were also paying good money for.

The real shadow over our lives was not the Latin master and his cold fingers but the headmaster and his favourite educational tool, a cane. A keen disciplinarian, this man beat boys of seven upwards so frequently, and for such trivial offences, that his catch phrase "Bend over, boy, I'm going to give you a good whacking" became a much feared part of school life. What was perhaps more unusual, although none of us realised it until we reached the comparatively gentle world of public school, was the manner of his beatings.

Without fail, boys would be black and blue after a beating, and sometimes the skin would be broken. Those to whom he took a particular dislike - or liking, perhaps - were whacked so hard that, two days later, they would have difficulty walking. Some boys became so traumatised that they had to be taken away from the school. Of those who survived, it seems likely that a fair number took the disciplinary lessons provided in the headmaster's study into later life, becoming hard-line Tory MPs, angry columnists for *The Spectator* or, at the very least, regular, whimpering clients of Madame Whiplash.

Of course, none of this could probably happen today in our respectable prep schools. And yet, whenever I read an editorial solemnly arguing that the solution to juvenile crime is early, hands-on discipline, or see a TV studio filled with parents baying for the right to hit their children, or on the other hand, find that the lead story in a tabloid newspaper is a breathless version of Richard Branson's messing-around experience presented as yet another child abuse horror, I wonder whether things have changed that much.

Miles Kington returns next week.



Continuing this week's series on the Scottish National Trust, a plasterer renovates an old building for the new Edinburgh HQ

Tom Pilton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Tory terrorism puts
Ulster peace in peril

Sir: There can be few who would disagree with David McKitterick's report on the vital question of the future of the peace process in Northern Ireland ("Timble out to crush dissenters") and the leading article "The folly of breaking the cross-party accord" (22 June).

The two items are not unconnected. The first correctly identified that the Northern Ireland assembly "will need a strong majority in favour of the Good Friday agreement to fend off challenges from ... Unionism opposed to the accord". And the latter, equally correctly, identified the "tawdry spectacle" of the Conservative decision, last week, to vote against the legislation to enact the Good Friday Agreement.

If, as I believe and hope will not be the case, extremists opposed to the peace process make significant and damaging headway in the Assembly elections next Thursday, the Conservative Party will have to bear a great deal of responsibility for the consequences which could follow - be it instability or, worse, a return to violence.

The timing of the Tories' decision, a week before polling, to end the hitherto necessary and agreed bipartisan approach to Northern Ireland must be seen for what it may end up being - an act of political terrorism. The opposition must have known, and yet for reasons of populist point-scoring they went ahead to give succour to those wishing to destroy the peace process.

STEPHEN HESFORD MP
(Wirral West, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

The writer is a member of the Commons Northern Ireland Select Committee.

Party that left us

Sir: The Conservative MP Iain Duncan-Smith doubts whether Peter Temple-Morris, his colleague who has joined Labour, ever was a Conservative (Parliament & Politics, 22 June).

Oh, yes he was. In 1960, when I was secretary of the Cambridge University Conservative Association he was a committee member. In the same association where Leon Brittan, Christopher Tugendhat, Peter Lloyd, Norman Fowler, Peter Viggers, John Gummer and Kenneth Clarke. Can one name more than two of these who have given the impression they support the present Tory party leadership?

While I, like Emma Nicholson and Hugh Dykes, moved to the Liberal Democrats, Peter has moved a little further, one might think. But we have all found more congenial accommodation. The older you get, the more set in your ways you usually become. So why do so many of us appear such rejuvenated left-wingers? Simple. The Conservative Party has moved away from us. It has become extremist. Any of us who believed in

"one nation" have had to look elsewhere.
DAVID R MATTHEWS
Chairman, Hazel Grove Liberal Democrats
Stockport, Cheshire

Follow the French

Sir: Contrary to the assertion by Hamish McRae ("France, a lucky nation poised on the brink of prosperity", 18 June), the proposed 35-hour week in France may well be a step in the right direction. Handled properly and in return for new agreements on flexible working patterns, it should allow a reduction in unemployment and a better quality of life for those already in work.

You reported on 1 June the beginnings of a revolt against the culture of work in Britain ("Most people sacrifice family life for their jobs - and hate it"). Maybe we are actually catching up with France, where a reduction in working time has been widely debated for several years, culminating in a massive endorsement for the policy in last year's general election.

Hamish McRae does not explain why the 35-hour week is such a bad idea. In common with most mainstream commentators, he assumes that full-time work organised through the deregulated market is the only way to operate an economy and socialise people.

Never forget we live in a world of unprecedented wealth. We have more latitude than ever before to decide how we create and distribute it. Also do not forget that France's regulated labour market produces a GDP per head around 10 per cent greater than the UK's.
MARK BRYAN
Derby

Iraqi victims of US

Sir: Caroline Harper ignores some "central facts" herself ("Blame Saddam", Letters, 20 June). She writes that "the Iraqi people have been in an impoverished state ... for many years". The fact is that in 1989 the World Health Organisation recorded Iraq as having 92 per cent access to clean water, 93 per cent access to high-quality health care and high educational and nutritional standards.

Today Iraq's healthcare system is in a state of near-total collapse. This month the UN Secretary General's special envoy to Iraq, Prakash Shah, noted that the sanctions on Iraq will have long-term adverse effects such as malnutrition of children, social deprivation and economic hardship and the deterioration of infrastructure and education.

The Security Council "oil for food" Resolutions 706 and 712 (August and September 1991) that Ms Harper refers to were, in reality, little more than a cynical exercise in public relations. The June investigatory mission led by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UN Secretary General's executive delegate, reported that Iraq was "on the brink of calamity" and required \$6.8bn over 12 months to provide for food

and medicine and to restore some basic services. In stark contrast, Resolution 706 provided for the sale of \$1.6bn of oil every six months - to be paid into a UN-administered account, with only a fraction allocated for humanitarian relief for the Iraqi people.

Saddam Hussein is indeed a brutal tyrant - as he was prior to August 1990, when he had US support. However the history of US economic warfare against, for example, Vietnam and Cuba shows that such considerations as the welfare of the Iraqi civilian population carry zero weight.

Letting Iraqi oil back onto the market "would destroy the huge profits the US stands to gain from its massive investment in Caucasian oil production" an Arab statistician suggested to *The Independent's* Robert Fisk - a much more reasonable explanation for the indefinite perpetuation of the embargo than fairy stories about Saddam Hussein being a threat to the entire world.

Thus the people of Iraq are confronted with two problems: the murderous thug who leads the country and the callous indifference of Western governments to the suffering caused by the embargo. It is within our power to do something about the latter. If we can then the Iraqi people might have a chance of dealing with the former. Otherwise, the prognoses are grim.
GABRIEL CARLYLE
Junior Research Fellow
Magdalen College
Oxford

After the Lords

Sir: Ken Livingstone is right that there is no case for retaining the hereditary peerage ("The Prime Minister, patronage and Labour's flawed plans for the Lords", 17 June). There is even less of a case for retaining life peers under the system of Prime Minister's patronage. Nothing could be worse than allowing the government of the day to appoint, undemocratically, members of the second chamber from their own supporters. The country needs some democratic means of appointing members to this chamber.

One suggestion is that bodies such as professional organisations, trade unions, religions and universities should vote for their own representatives, to sit for a term of, say, five or seven years. By this means we would have a chamber not consisting of party politicians but of experts in a wide field of the country's life. Why do we need party politics in the second chamber?

ALAN WILKINSON
Sevenoaks, Kent

Football hooligans

Sir: I wholeheartedly agree with Gillie Russell (letter, 18 June). The laddish football culture exemplified by *They Think It's All Over* must be a conspiracy to corrupt the youth of our nation, by the very same evil forces that brought us such dangerous movements as rock'n'roll. Neither was I surprised to hear that

the "if you don't think I'm funny you're a prude" attitude of Rory McGrath was undermining the moral values of teenagers. Good grief! Parents sounding "old-fashioned and boring" to their adolescent offspring! Whatever next?

TIM WRIGHT
Swanley, Kent

Sir: I would like to congratulate the brave and courageous MP for Hooligan and Chelsea, Alan Clark, on his backing for England football supporters. At last someone is prepared to stand up for those fighting in a foreign field. I would encourage Mr Clark to go further and organise a carnival in his constituency for these homecoming heroes. I believe local residents will be wild with excitement at such a prospect.
LIAM PEOPLES
London, W10

British on death row

Sir: "We are a nation with a penchant for stories involving Brits apparently wrongly convicted in foreign courts" (leading article, 17 June). Are we indeed?

Two British citizens, Kenny Richey and Krishna Maharaj, have been on death row in Ohio and Florida respectively for the past 11 years for murders that neither committed. Their trials were a travesty of justice, yet their plight then and since has been largely ignored, not least by the Foreign Office. Letters to the Foreign Secretary receive only a lame or evasive response. The conclusion is that the Government is more concerned with not offending the Americans than protecting its own citizens.

In Krishna Maharaj's case the immediate need is money for a properly conducted appeal. Surely one should not have to plead for what should be a right? Yet the Foreign Office's response is to point to the free availability of a defence lawyer in the US. They do not say, though they must know, that invariably he will be poorly paid and of such low calibre as to be positively harmful to any defence.

The Foreign Secretary's ethical foreign policy would gain greater credibility if he would interest himself in the fate of these two men.
J D LONG
Newcastle upon Tyne

Jesus and his family

Sir: Robert Card (letter, 20 June) claims that Jesus Christ did not "promote the traditional family". He quotes St Luke's Gospel xiv, 26. Had he looked a few pages earlier, he would have found what Jesus did. At the age of 12, entering rebellious teens, "He went down with them [Mary and Joseph] to Nazareth and lived under their authority" (Luke ii:51).

The devout Jews who heard him years later, outlining what is needed to be his disciple, knew that the word "hate" quoted by Mr Card and applied to the family, meant being sufficiently detached from your own

family to follow conscience, if there should be any clash of interests.
HUGH LINDSAY
Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria
The writer was Raman Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle 1974-1992

Diplomatic reply

Sir: May I thank Merrick Baker Bates (letter, 19 June), who added to the sum of my knowledge in properly attributing my quotation about an ambassador being "sent to lie abroad for the good of his country" to Henry Wotton? I had previously assumed that it was from Benjamin Franklin, who I believe also had an eye for a pretty face and a well-turned ankle, appropriately to the double entendre.

I trust however, that Mr Baker-Bates is not arguing with Peter Ustinov: "A diplomat these days is nothing but a head-waiter who's allowed to sit down occasionally." I doubt his own distinguished service in Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur and Los Angeles supported that contention.
DAVID DAVIS MP
(Haltwhistle and Howden, C)
House of Commons
London SW1

IN BRIEF

Sir: Your Health Editor should have been more accurate in his interpretation of the paper in the *British Medical Journal*. ("Emergency care below standard", 19 June). It is not half of "patients admitted to hospital in an emergency" who receive poor care, but that small proportion who are "critically ill" and who subsequently need intensive care.

The vast majority of emergency admissions do not need intensive care, and as a consultant physician I should hate my next acute intake of up to 35 patients to think their risk of dying will be doubled.
D J WALKER FRCP
Macclesfield, Cheshire

Sir: Your leading article (22 June) on the quality and taste of our tap water competes with the Environment Agency for complacency. In my last house we had to filter water twice to get a tolerable cup of tea. Much more important, following expert evidence given at a public inquiry last year, we cannot be sure that water hereabouts does not contain prions from the local BSE rendering plant. I'll stick to drinking bottled water, thank you very much.
GRAHAM PHILLIPS
Tenterden, Kent

Sir: Your report on the trade in chitru skins (20 June) was extremely disturbing. However by describing the Tibetan antelope, *Pantholops hodgsoni*, as a breed, some of the impact has been lost. "Breed" is a term applied to domesticated animals where selective breeding accentuates certain characters. If a breed is lost it can in time be recreated. The chitru is a species and if it becomes extinct it could not be recreated by selective breeding.
TONY MORRIS
Crayford, Kent

THE REVIEW
DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

THE INDEPENDENT
Bigger and better

PANDORA

DEAD FILM stars will live again – that was the message from last week's Virtual Humans 3 conference at the Universal Hilton hotel in Hollywood. Computer-generated – or rather regenerated – stars may have roles to play in future movies. Lawyer Edward Rosenthal, who represents the estates of Marlene Dietrich and Humphrey Bogart among others, told the Hollywood Reporter that "the moment of death" was not necessarily "the end of an actor's career". The prospect of Marlene posthumously getting to grips with Michael Douglas (or even Sharon Stone) in a steamy thriller is an interesting one. However, a dangerous precedent is being set here. Would it be either wise or fair to subject future generations to an inexhaustible stream of Leslie Nielsen movies?

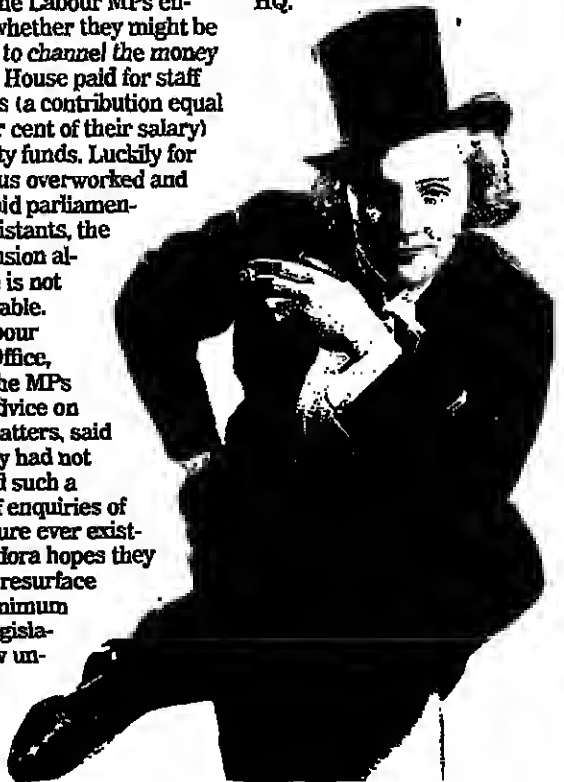
NEVER MIND sequels, it is the series of "Star Wars" prequels that is causing much consternation at the moment. But for once it's not the stars that are the problem. The word in Tinseltown is that the first prequel's budget has rocketed up to \$115m because early footage appeared to be out of focus. This is because the director used video footage instead of recording directly on film in an effort to keep costs down. Insiders told the New York Daily News. The Lucas camp deny this and have said that "nothing is being reshoot". Hopefully this means the much-hyped movie will not disappear into a black hole shortly after its release.

NO ONE can doubt the Labour Party's success in increasing both its funds and its membership, but will MPs stop at nothing to continue this success story? A source has told Pandora that, before the election, some Labour MPs enquired whether they might be allowed to channel the money that the House paid for staff pensions (a contribution equal to 10 per cent of their salary) into party funds. Luckily for numerous overworked and underpaid parliamentary assistants, the staff pension allowance is not transferable. The Labour Whips Office, where the MPs go for advice on these matters, said that they had not received such a query. If enquiries of this nature ever existed, Pandora hopes they will not resurface with Minimum Wage legislation now underway.

THE GOVERNMENT'S penchant for reviews and working groups seems to have infected those at the top of the sports world too. The FA Premier League has a working group of its very own. One item "under consideration" is the introduction of boards showing how much injury time is left to play, to be shown towards the end of each half of the match. The system has been used to good effect in the present World Cup.

It would seem that this useful system enjoys universal popularity. Indeed, Sheila Speers from the National Committee of the Football Supporters Association said: "Most people seem to think it's a damn good idea." Not so the Premiership who, while admitting that they could adopt it quickly if required, did not consider their feedback on the issue to indicate popular support. Put down those pens, and start picking up those telephones.

TWO BEAUTIFUL reconciliations have taken place in the press this week. Both are surprising, to say the least, and both are borne out of selective amnesia. First, the Sunday Telegraph reports that Earl Spencer has struck a deal with The Sun to promote a video that will be shown to visitors at Althorp, the Spencer family home. Was The Sun not one of the tabloids guilty of "hounding" his sister Diana? Evidently not. Meanwhile, the Guardian has been indulging Jonathan Miller, Rupert Murdoch's former henchman at Sky. Monday's Media Guardian gave a glowing description of Miller as "the respected associate editor in charge of business" at The European, meanwhile leaving him free to put the boot into Murdoch in another article. Interesting to note that old acquaintance can be forgot at Guardian HQ.



BRITISH JOURNALISTS have been smirking at two high-profile scandals involving two of their American peers who made up quotes and events in articles for two highly respected publications.

No, that sentence will not do. Since we are writing on the subject of journalistic accuracy, let's be spot on. British journalists have been laughing hysterically, slapping their thighs and fighting desperately to retain bladder control. "We have long suspected that all this fact-checking stuff was a charade," said a source close to me yesterday. "And now we know."

A columnist for the Boston Globe, Patricia Smith, resigned after she was found to have made up quotes. This came shortly after Stephen Glass, a very youthful feature writer for the New Republic, was unmasked as a fictional writer of the highest order. He had made up events, companies and people, even going to the lengths of creating a website and voice mail for one of his companies. As I told my wife, the actress Kate Winslet, over breakfast, all of this is outrageous. It would never have happened when Ed



ANDREW MARSHALL

We have long suspected that all this American fact-checking stuff was a charade. Now we know

Murrow and I were reporting on the Blitz in 1940.

American newspapers and magazines pride themselves on their commitment to accuracy. Comment is free, but facts are sacred, after all. The magazines have legions of fact-checkers to make sure each and every assertion is backed by reality. American journalists are often

very stuffy about British journalism, charging that British papers do not maintain the stoutest firewalls between news and opinion. The media in the US takes itself very seriously, even if the public at large doesn't.

There are all sorts of spurious explanations for the latest outbreak of creativity, most of which centre on the tremendous pressures faced by journalists. Time is short, careers are precious and everyone wants to make sure that their stories get noticed. Most of this is nonsense. What is true and relevant, however, is a gradual change in reporting in British and American newspapers in the past few years. There is pressure to make things presentable and entertaining, sometimes at the expense of other values.

The news has increasingly been taken over by a meandering, joint-the-dots style of impressionistic reporting. Of the 14 stories that start on the front pages of yesterday's Washington Post and New York Times, nine have laid-back, anecdotal introductions. "When President Clinton touched down in April 1996..." for instance; or "From 201 feet above the runway..." I just

hope we're sure it was exactly 201 feet. Who, what, when, how, where and why are out of fashion. Everything has to be touchy-feely. Finding the establishing detail for stories, getting the right quotes and background detail to make every article read like a short story has become as important as relevance or insight. This is an open invitation to, umm, inventiveness.

There is a curious side to the latest award for creative writing, however. After all, Ms Smith was a columnist. Columnists get to write what they want because they are read for their opinions. Why should a columnist feel that she has to invent quotes? Because strong, hard-hitting opinions are also out of fashion.

The New Republic, after all, used to be a magazine of political opinion, but the pressures that have taken the news out of news have also diluted the opinion in opinion. Everything has to be rooted in daily life and times.

The Olympian style of the old-time columnists, always de haut en bas, was sometimes irritating, but

at least it was usually sharp. Many American columnists don't have anything in particular which they wish to tell us, just something that they wish to share.

What is left is a kind of mush not unlike those bottles of fruit crush called smoothies, a liquidised blend of emotion, factoids and prepackaged thought.

Not all the time, of course. Often, the American press delivers devastatingly researched pieces of investigation, crisp reporting full of insight, angry and incisive argument that will change opinions. But increasingly it also brings us long, rambling, anecdotal chunks of drivel that wind on for page after page, and you find yourself reading the adverts with greater interest. At least they're short and to the point.

Creative writing is a booming market in the US, and doubtless Mr Glass has a flourishing career ahead of him now that the New Republic has paid such lavish tribute to his inventive genius. A self-help book for the imaginatively challenged can only be a few lunches away. Comment is free, facts are sacred, and a book contract is in the post.

Let us show prisoners how to be human beings



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Insisting on barbarities such as 'slopping-out' demeans prisoners and further alienates them

TAKING PART on Radio 4's *Midweek* programme last week, I was astounded by the story told by one of the other guests, John Hoskison. He had recently come out of prison and has written a book about his experiences. Hoskison is not the usual criminal, stealing cars, doing burglaries or dealing in drugs. Nor is he the sophisticated crook, engaged in complicated frauds, blackmail, money-laundering and the like. Nor has he been a professional hit-man, or gangland leader.

He is more like the tragic character in Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, Sherman McCoy. McCoy is a successful stockbroker who, driving in New York with his mistress, gets lost, panics when two black men approach his car, runs one of them over, and is thus quickly transformed from Wall Street millionaire to convicted criminal.

Hoskison was a professional golfer who went to play in a match with a friend. After they finished, they went to a bar. Over the limit, he decided to take the risk and drive home. Down a dark country lane, he hit a cyclist and killed him. In his panic he did not stop. At the Old Bailey in October 1995 he was sentenced to three years in prison. He was sent to Wandsworth.

Hoskison's book is better than accounts of the British prison service by journalists because they never, as Hoskison did, get behind the enemy's lines. As a journalist, you require Home Office permission to visit a prison; you are always accompanied and you can see only what officials want you to see.

The first question that Hoskison's book raises for me is the concept of humanity. The chances of a prison officer speaking to an inmate as if he were a fellow human being seem minimal. Yet compare this with the mission statement of the

Prison Service: "Our duty is to look after [prisoners] with humanity and to help them lead law-abiding and useful lives in custody and after release."

Prison officers presumably believe that they have to deny the humanity of the people in their care if they are to do their difficult jobs. It is the same with the prisoners themselves. Hoskison tells how he was treated when one day he did manage to exchange a friendly word or two. No sooner had the officer disappeared than a hand "grabbed my chin in an excruciating grip. 'Don't ever let me catch you smiling at a screw again,' said one of the drug baron's henchmen. 'If you do, I'll cut you so bad your bird will never want to set eyes on you again.'"

The drug baron's henchman was reinforcing the notion that giving evidence against a fellow prisoner, being labelled a "grass", would be judged the vilest deed anybody could perpetrate and would be punished

with horrific beatings. As Hoskison remarks, it was a cruel warning and one "I took very seriously... for the rest of my sentence I was never able to further any friendship with an officer."

There is also a denial of humanity in the squalor of prisons. When Hoskison arrived at Wandsworth he found filth everywhere. Old bits of food lay underfoot, dustbins were overflowing and the walls were covered with grime. As for the notorious "slopping out", it is well known that many prisons have buckets in cells rather than provide ready access to toilets and everybody deprecates the practice – without fully comprehending how barbarous it is.

But as Hoskison recounts the experience, when he first opened the swing doors to the so-called "recess" area, which catered for 45 prisoners, he found "hell itself". In the far corner were two sit-down toilets, one with no door, the other with 3ft of wood up to hip height, and a queue of inmates waiting, with toilet rolls in their hands, as two men, bent up with effort, tried to hurry.

To the right was a washing-up area for crockery. To the left were two dustbins for left-over food. In the far corner was the slopping-out area, two large porcelain sinks with huge plug holes for waste and a tap that either blasted out water with the force of a fireman's hose or didn't work at all. There were also urinals, blocked and overflowing with slops from those who couldn't wait for the waste sinks. The floor was awash with faeces, rotting food and dirty water.

To my mind, this filth is as demeaning to the prison officers as it is to the prisoners themselves. Put a "normal" person in charge of a prison and probably the first thing that he or she would want to do would be to clean it up. Only then



Enforced idleness leads to disaffected prisoners David Rose

could meaningful progress be made on other fronts.

The second issue Hoskison's book raises is how many minor obstacles stand in the way of helping prisoners to lead "useful lives in custody and after release". This is a field where big problems may be best tackled, at least as a start, by making numerous small changes.

Take the question of drugs in prison. Whether inside or outside jail, drugs are at the centre of the criminal world. Visitors bring them in. They drop a package into a cup of tea and surreptitiously swap it with the prisoners. The prisoner drinks up, swallows the package and later retrieves it from the toilet or slops bucket. No doubt the Prison Service is well aware of the technique, but doesn't stop it. Moreover the penalty for being caught is too low – just a few days added to a sentence.

To take another example, Hoskison says the rate of pay for working in a prison workshop was about £10

a week, whereas those taking full-time education courses (where available) earned £4 a week. Full-time education is almost certainly more valuable, but few prisoners choose it because it pays less well.

Buying phone cards is the major purchase of all inmates. The phones are prohibitively expensive because the Prison Service appears determined to make a profit out of them. When inmates' homes are far away, the prison phone charges are so high that they cannot afford to call. Yet prisoners need a lifeline; it is in society's interest that they should stay in touch with their families.

It was insights such as these that made me sit up when John Hoskison started telling his story on Radio 4. So many little things are going wrong with our prisons; so many would be easy to rectify.

John Hoskison. *Inside: One Man's Experience of Prison* (John Murray, £15.99).

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The four pillars of first-rate education

THE GOVERNMENT has embarked on its attempt to transform education with energy and purpose. This is an opportunity to explain the four themes or pillars that underlie the range of initiatives taken since the election.

First, the creation of a world-class education service is a five- to 10-year project. In the past, government interest in education has come and gone, mostly gone. For most of the post-war era governments left it to others to make what running there was.

Last year's White Paper "Excellence in Schools" represents a new departure. It describes a comprehensive programme and targets for 2002. It will ensure sustained priority for education throughout this Parliament.

Second, being world class surely means enabling everyone to reach their full potential. Far from being about levelling down as some have recently suggested, it is about levelling up. It is about enabling the many to achieve standards that until recently we only provided for the few.

It is not consistent with a

world-class service that there is so much variation in the performance of schools, even after controlling their intakes, or that more than 50,000 pupils leave school every year with no qualifications.

The Government's approach to equal opportunities is designed to tackle these deep-seated problems. The foundation of any systematic approach is good data. There is no education system in the world as rich in data as this one.

The Government's approach to tackling problems revealed by the data has been a robust one. It has insisted that there should be high expectations of everyone, regardless of their background. As ministers put it: "Poverty is no excuse."

That is why the literacy target we have set for 11-year-olds is a high one, set at the level necessary for a pupil to succeed at secondary level. Some have suggested introducing lower targets for pupils who have fallen behind at age seven, but that would simply build in an assumption of continued failure.

A catch-up programme is being designed that will ensure targeted additional support for every child who has fallen be-



PODIUM

MICHAEL BARBER

From the Demos Education Lecture by the Head of the Government's Standards and Effectiveness Unit

hind by age seven. Similarly, the Social Exclusion Unit report recommended a full timetable for every excluded pupil.

The Government is also determined to avoid the flaw of much old-fashioned thinking that led people to equate equality with uniformity. The total number of specialist secondary schools will soon be 330. The first Muslim voluntary-aided

schools have been established. This Government is promoting diversity.

Third, children's performance is influenced not only by school but also by their family circumstances and their opportunities to learn outside the formal school day.

Homework guidelines will set expectations so every child does the amount of homework that is the norm in the best schools. Home-school agreements will create the relationships between home and school on which success depends.

The fourth pillar relates to how these ambitious ideas can be put into practice. Governments have almost always talked the language of partnership. For most of this century, a cosy, unreported, tripartite "partnership" of central government, local government and teacher organisations ran the education system. In a leisurely way it worked for a system in which change was rare and slow.

No-one now would accept this. Education is for everyone. Parents, governors, business and community organisations all demand their say.

This Government is taking

the opportunity to build a new set of partnerships which are better than those of the past, not only because they are more open and inclusive, but also because they share a sense of urgency and purpose. Hence the Government's willingness to learn from "what works" wherever it works, as the radical and innovative "education action zone" proposals demonstrate.

Hence the appointment of primary and secondary heads to work as policy advisers. Hence, too, the emphasis on consulting parents. It is also working with independent schools.

The significance of these partnerships should not be underestimated. They are not simply the key to getting things done effectively and urgently, they are a recognition that government alone cannot create a world-class education system. As David Blunkett has said, we can no longer afford a culture of complacency.

If we want a successful education we need a culture characterised, not by a traditional British shrug of resignation, but by a sense of what is possible if only we work together.

Where are Britain's big hitters?



DIANE COYLE

It's a myth that the land of Thatcher and Blair is a newly dynamic and entrepreneurial place

AS IF WE needed more evidence of American supremacy as the curtain starts to fall on the 20th century, now we find that no other nation outside the USA can do wealth properly. That includes Britain – exploding the myth that the land of Thatcher and Blair is a newly dynamic and entrepreneurial place, a nourishing environment for those who want to get filthy rich.

The latest global rich list, this one from *Forbes* magazine, reports that 12 of the world's top 20 "working" wealthy and 70 of the top 200 are US citizens. The first Briton – merchant banker Brunn Schroder and his family – crawls in at number 111, followed by Richard Branson at number 173.

For the first time, the magazine has excluded from its list anybody who rests on the laurels of inherited money, concentrating instead on the wealth-creators. Yet for all the fanfare about how much Britain's entrepreneurial culture has flourished, there are embarrassingly few of us making serious money out of it. Our fat cats are, well, fluffy, cuddly creatures like Mr Branson rather than sleek and fierce lords of the business jungle such as Bill Gates, his Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, and super-investor Warren Buffett. The British rich want to be popular, the Americans just want to be rich. The arithmetic is savagely simple: Bill Gates equals 27 Richard Bransons.

This is not the worst of it. The magazine's reporters single out from the richest 200 some 10 people who stand out as the "smartest" billionaires, those who have got furthest on their own efforts and are likeliest to go further still. It's no surprise to find the ubiquitous Bill top of the chart again, but the other nine include not a single Briton. It has three Americans, and one each from Germany, France, Japan, Russia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. The German Hasso Plattner, founder of software company SAP, is worth three-and-a-half Mr Bransons.

We may be more entrepreneur-friendly than we used to be on this side of the Atlantic, but that isn't saying very much. We still don't really like wealth created through trade; nothing has changed since the Victorians looked down on the creation of muck and brass. Today's muck is different. It might be the past efforts of Goldman Sachs partners, castigated for cashing in on their creation of one of the world's most successful financial institutions ever. Or it could be the head of a profitable television company like Waleed Alli, whose chief attribute, according to almost every report, is his youth rather than his business acumen and talent. The Government's efforts to improve the climate for entrepreneurs



US investment guru Warren Buffett has made billions on Wall Street for himself and his investors

in the new media and computer industries was dismissively laughed away as "Cool Britannia".

And, after all, Alan Clark, the Conservative MP for Kensington and Chelsea and newly self-appointed voice of patriotism, in his diaries gleefully recorded a put-down describing Michael Heseltine, a well-off self-made businessman amongst other things, as somebody who had to buy his own furniture. Nothing to inherit, d'you see.

We even fare badly in comparison to the Continent, where the supposed despairs of Eurosclerosis have not destroyed a flourishing tradition of family businesses, many created in the 1950s after the war had destroyed much of the earlier industrial base. Britain is a small country with a dismal post-war record of wealth creation. The entrepreneurial miracle has not happened yet, and there will be no proof of it until more Britons join the world's rich lists. The

odds are stacked against our would-be business plutocrats. It is next to impossible to raise finance for a small, new high-tech business. In contrast to US financiers, their British equivalents would rather invest in something safe, like a restaurant chain being bought by its existing managers. The tax system discourages entrepreneurs from making themselves wealthy by generous share options in their own company, although the Chancellor is

considering how to tackle this. Yet there have been undoubted improvements in the British economy over the past decade, and Britain does lead Continental economies in terms of deregulation, venture capital and sheer enthusiasm for self-made millionaires. Are we really such a slovenly lot, more likely to get rich buying a National Lottery ticket than creating a business?

There is a partial excuse. A clue can be found in *Microserfs*, Douglas Coupland's novel about life inside and outside Bill Gates's Microsoft. The hero, a programme de-bugger, checks the company's share price several times a day. "The stock closed up \$1.75 on Friday. Bill has 78,000,000 shares so that means he's now \$136.5 million richer. I have almost no stock, and this means I'm a loser."

The wealth measured by any rich list includes the value of shares, and it gives the Americans a head start. Prices on Wall Street have climbed to giddy heights since the 1987 crash – an event that now looks like a tiny downward blip on the financial charts. Share prices in the US in general have multiplied two-and-a-half times over the past five years, and high-tech share prices have gained another 50 per cent on top of the average. UK share prices have, more modestly, doubled, and the high-tech sector is too new to compare.

This alone goes a long way to explaining the preponderance of American software tycoons at the top of the wealth league. Software, telecommunications and media are the oil, gas and railroads of the modern economy, and thanks to its sheer size and diversity the US is as resource-rich in the new dominant industries as it was in the old.

Many other stockmarkets have also done extremely well, but Wall Street puts them in the shade. Entrepreneurs like Mr Branson, whose business is not publicly listed on a stockmarket, don't have any of this kind of paper wealth at all.

Sadly this does not add up to a complete vindication for the non-Americans. That astonishing share price performance on Wall Street reflects something like two-parts froth and bubble to three-parts real wealth creation, although the exact ratio is the subject of fierce dispute. While many pundits are predicting the next crash, others insist that the extreme heights high-technology shares have reached relative to any mundane measure of worth – such as company profits – are more than justified.

For example, Microsoft's stockmarket value is a staggering \$23bn. This is why Bill is a multi-billionaire. Yet its revenues last year amounted to just \$11bn, and its profits \$5bn. It looks like pure madness to value a company at so much more than its contribution in sales and profits.

However, as Charles Goldfinger, a Brussels-based management consultant specialising in the increasingly intangible parts of modern business, points out, accounting standards mean Microsoft writes off its employees' salaries and its software development expenses as a cost each year, rather than treating them as an asset. If the measurement of how much companies are worth had kept up with the importance of assets like people and knowledge, rocketing share prices would look far more reasonable.

Even so, the heap of American wealth at the top of the *Forbes* list cannot be dismissed as a house of cards. Which takes us back to the less-than-comforting conclusion that Britain is still putting on a poor show in the wealth-creation stakes.

RIGHT OF REPLY

HEATHER HALLETT



The Chairman of the Bar Council responds to criticism of the level of barristers' fees

WHILEST A very small number at the top of the profession do earn fees of over £200,000 a year, this is not the case for the overwhelming majority. For them, the prospect of earning such a sum is as likely as winning the National Lottery.

Most criminal legal aid work is covered by a system of fixed Graduated Fees. It has clear, easily regulated, rates of pay. Typical basic fees for appearing in a contested trial are £208.50 plus £207 a day for a junior barrister and £1,616.50 plus £413.50 for a Queen's Counsel (QC).

In other cases, all bills have to be approved by an expert known as the Determining Officer, who is employed by the Government. Cases taken to the House of Lords are exceptional. It is very difficult to draw up a bill assessing one's worth and work. That is why the role of the Determining Officer is so important. To suggest that payments are only for the two or three days in the Lords is nonsense, as appeals take months of preparation.

In all cases, payments include VAT and the cost of running a Chambers. Barristers are self-employed and do not get the benefits of being employed: regular income, pension and sickness/holiday pay. To earn the same as a hospital consultant after deductions, a barrister would need to be paid fees of £200,000 a year. Most QCs doing criminal legal aid work would receive about £150,000, giving an annual income of about £80,000 before tax. Unsurprisingly, the Lord Chancellor's Department has stepped away from supporting the proposal to link senior barristers' pay to consultants', having seen the figures.

I do not say criminal legal aid barristers are poorly paid, but I resent suggestions that we are milking the legal aid fund.

A gentle soaking in Celtic mist

IN IRELAND, people discuss rain as others savour wine. They dwell on the subtle differences in its quality, the drama of its manifestations and, of course, the likelihood of its occurrence. Its persistence can make some think, as Heinrich Böll once noted, that Ireland is full of holes and we'll all be drowned.

But it is essential to character, and some of us simply love it. Rain is a way of connecting with nature. Only a dip in the sea can compete as a means for hurring the boundaries between self and the elements. I never walk down a grim London street during a miserable downpour without recalling the delight of being gently soaked in Celtic mist.

As the travel writer William Bulfin said at the turn of the century, Irish rain "is a kind of damp poem. It is humid fragrance, and it has a way of stealing into your life which disarms anger. It is soft, apologetic kind of rain, as a rule; and even in its wildest moods, it gives you the impression that it is treating you as well as it can under the circumstances."

Another enthusiast, Robert Lloyd Praeger, described the west coast as having "an atmosphere that recalls blue eyes with tears in them: the only conditions under which it can look simply unattractive is in dry weather... better than that, honest rain sweeping in from the Atlantic, and the sea shouting on the rocks."

It is just such games that make Patricia Craig's collection of writings about Ireland exciting and provocative rather than merely a recapitulation of oft-repeated perspectives. She even manages a quotation exploring how rain was the undoing of the Anglo-Irish aristocracy. Many survived the burnings of the civil war, but few could afford to mend the roof.

Once you have got to grips with the rain issue, you have to tackle other senses titillated by Irish experience.



TUESDAY BOOK

THE OXFORD BOOK OF IRELAND
EDITED BY PATRICIA CRAIG, OUP, £18.95

Smell, for example. John Betjeman saluted the "turf-scented air". And sound. Lord Dunsany suggested that the manager of any theatre wishing to evoke an Irish atmosphere should "have the sound of the curlew calling occasionally in the distance and send into the auditorium a whiff from a smouldering sod of Irish turf".

Then there is colour: the infinite variety of greens captured in so many photographs but hinted at only in passing here. Nor is taste – the flavour of food and drink – much tackled.

Nevertheless, it is a treat to see this book capture the elemental feel of Ireland that lies behind Seamus Heaney's verse: "And on Iona Colmille sought ease/By wearing Irish mould next to his feet".

There is much else, besides, to amuse. Some sections are predictable, though interesting, on Dublin, emigration, famine, the West, rebellion, emblems of nationalism, and the disaster that struck Northern Ireland for the last quarter of the 20th century. I would have preferred less from books, more from the wealth of Irish jour-



Study Ireland's climate, and you understand its people Jon Winters

nalism as well as song. There is, however, space for quirky humour – such as Percy French's parody of Queen Victoria making an after-dinner speech in Ireland, as if she were a working-class Dubliner. There are wonderful snippets from VS Pritchett's observations in *Midnight Oil*, not least of taking tea with WB Yeats as the distracted poet struggles for somewhere to cast the old Lapsang leaves. Healthy and frequent doses of irreverence from Flann O'Brien and others prevent this collection from becoming precious. My favourites are O'Brien's lampooning of Irish politicians and their obsessive lip-service to Gaelic culture. There are also frequent allusions to tensions between the Irish bawdiness that can be found in Gaelic but, in Anglicised Ireland, is so often suppressed by Catholic chastity and Protestant puritanism.

As Brian Moore wrote, the Irish are "a nation of masturbators under priestly instruction". Sections translated from *The Midnight Court*, written in Gaelic in the 18th century, are thoroughly modern in their descriptions of sex. The confusion of what it means to be Irish is ever present, starting with Louis MacNeice's observation that "It gives us a hold on the sentimental English/As members of a world that never was/Baptised with fairy water". Then there is Roy Foster's excellent description of Yeats's cultural duality, which pulled him back and forth between his Irish and English identities, caught "between provincial, rooted Ireland and the metropolitan temptations of England". Patricia Craig is Belfast-born and so has full access to that frequently neglected powerhouse of Irish culture – Ulster, to which she devotes a chapter. If there is a weakness, it is that an English-speaking reader can only glimpse (thanks to translators) through a barely-opened door at the riches that lie beyond, in the Irish language.

JACK O'SULLIVAN

TUESDAY POEM

DARK SONG

BY FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA. TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER MAURER

I'd love to lose myself
In your dark country,
María del Carmen.

The breeze would be downy
As your skin.

Lose myself
In your deserted eyes
And play the keyboard
Of your ineffable mouth.

I would lose myself
In your trembling breasts,
In the black depths
Of your soft body.

In your endless embrace
The air would be dark,

I would lose myself
In your dark country,
María del Carmen.

Lorca was born near Granada in June 1898. Our poems today and tomorrow come from *A Season in Granada* (Anvil Press, £7.95). Christopher Maurer's edition of his uncollected poetry and prose.

Stop France's other Big Match.



The World Cup won't be the only 'sporting' event in France this year – some 600 bulls will be killed in French bullfights. In fact, extra bullfights have been organised in honour of the World Cup.

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Vronwy Hankey

VRONWY HANKEY achieved a much-respected position on Near Eastern, Minoan, and Mycenaean archaeology, while happily and successfully meeting all the expectations of a diplomat's wife and bringing up a talented family. She did this with great good-humour, laughter, clarity of mind and vision and a very positive attitude to whatever she was involved in. A wide circle of friends held her in the greatest affection.

Born in a Welsh clerical family and brought up in a large and spooky rectory at Stilton (then in Huntingdonshire), she was taught Greek by her father, Thomas Fisher. She became a Girtonian and

Scenes were deliciously described to friends, for example George Brown's address as Foreign Secretary to the embassy staff at Santiago

gained that rarest and most brilliant of youthful distinctions, a Blue (in hockey) and a First (in Classics).

She also discovered archaeology at Cambridge (Winifred Lamb and Dorothy Guard being at the height of their powers there) and in 1938 went out to the British School at Athens. Within weeks, she and a fellow student, Vincent Desborough, were sent to Knossos to help R.W. Hutchinson excavate and later (1956) publish a Minoan Tholos tomb on the Kephala Ridge. In 1939 she assisted Alan Wace at Mycenae and in April 1940 helped Hutchinson dig another, quite rich tomb at Knossos, south of the Palace of Minos.

These experiences must have fixed her heart and mind on Aegean archaeology, but after the advent of the Second World War she returned

to England and in 1941 married Henry, the youngest son of the wartime minister Lord Hankey. The diplomatic life followed, with service in Madrid, Rome, San Francisco, Santiago, London, Beirut and Panama, where her husband was Ambassador. Scenes were deliciously described to friends, for example George Brown's address as Foreign Secretary to the embassy staff at Santiago; Vronwy Hankey loved verbal dexterity and a good pun. Yet these distant postings cut her off from immediate research in Aegean archaeology - she lamented the difficulty of access to the four volumes of Arthur Evans's *The Palace of Minos* in Panama.

She nevertheless found time to publish a major article on Mycenaean pottery from Euboea appeared in the *Annals of the British School of Athens* 47 (1952) when she was in San Francisco. Other works followed and the presence of Mycenaeans in their persons or their pots in Cyprus and throughout the Near East became her major research field.

Her base at the Beirut embassy (1962-66) at last allowed her close touch with fieldwork and through her studies and publications she developed a wide range of contacts with archaeological colleagues in Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The fact that she was as cordially liked by colleagues in Israel as by a large number in Arab countries (she maintained her sympathy for the Palestinians) is a clear demonstration of the respect and affection her character brought out.

Much in demand by her colleagues for the study and publication of Mycenaean pottery from sites in the Near East, she came to focus on the material from Tell el-Amarna in Egypt. This large collection of pots and fragments is distributed in museums around the world and Hankey's collection and preparation of it for publication was well advanced.

She also studied the modern potter's workshops in Lebanon and encouraged her daughter, the potter Veronica Newman, to show how the Mycenaeans made their pots by producing delightful and accurate copies and giving seminars on their technique. Her practical knowledge was available too for Henry Hankey's technical drawings of pots both real and invented, the latter in



Hankey showed her daughter, the potter Veronica Newman, how to imitate Mycenaean techniques

his hilarious book *Archaeology: artifacts and artifice* (1985).

From 1970 onwards, when her husband was back in the Foreign Office in London, Vronwy Hankey renewed her Minoan interest, participating with Cressida Ridley (who died earlier this month) as a redoubtable duo in Gerald Cadogan's excavation on the sunstruck hilltop at Myrtos Pyrgos on the southern coast of Crete. Hankey was preparing pottery and fine stone vases for publication. Chronology had always been an interest of her detailed knowledge of contexts of Minoan and Mycenaean pottery throughout the Near East and was invaluable to her

co-authorship of *Aegean Bronze Age Chronology* (1989).

A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, she also delighted in her Honorary Fellowship of University College London and her attachment to the university's Petrie Museum of Egyptology in Gordon Place.

Well into the electronic age, she was particularly pleased to be able to receive "office" e-mails at home. She was always a practical person, in her last months rooting cuttings with 100 per cent success in her new garden in Eynsham, near Oxford.

Always generous in sharing her knowledge with others (not least as

a most popular lecturer on Swan Hellenic and Nile Cruises), firm but never harsh in her judgements of others' work, the most delightful of companions, especially in the songs, dances and laughter of a Cretan excavation party, Vronwy Hankey will be very much missed and her achievements always remembered.

Peter Warren

Vronwy Mary Fisher, archaeologist born Stilton, Huntingdonshire 15 September 1916; married 1941 The Hon Henry Hankey (three sons, one daughter); died Oxford 11 May 1998.

Professor Edward Shotton

FOR NINE years from 1939, Edward Shotton undertook pharmaceutical research and development work with Burroughs Wellcome & Co, at Dartford, in Kent. It was this important industrial experience in the large-scale formulation of medicines which laid the foundation stone for a carefully thought-out pharmaceutical research strategy in his later university career in the School of Pharmacy of London University.

Shotton was born at Smethwick in 1910. After qualifying as a pharmaceutical chemist in 1933, he worked in the retail pharmacy sector until 1934 and then as a demonstrator at London University until 1939, when he joined Burroughs Wellcome.

In 1956, he was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmaceutics of London University when it was still based at the Pharmaceutical Society (now the Royal Pharmaceutical Society) in Bloomsbury Square, and oversaw its translation to become part of the university's School of Pharmacy. His predecessor Professor Harry Berry had initiated courses not only in general pharmaceutics (the ethics, formulation and dispensing of drugs), but also in pharmaceutical microbiology and pharmaceutical engineering science, and Shotton ensured the smooth development of all these branches of pharmaceutics, guarding the balance between professional training, teaching and research.

Shotton's scientific research interests and programmes covered a very wide area of pharmaceutical science. He had the capacity to liaise with colleagues in disciplines outside medicine - for instance chemical engineering, colloid science and food science - which led to substantial advantages in the quality of research and journal publications.

He co-authored an important series of papers separately with Drs David Train, Colin Lewis and Ken Ridgway on the essentials of powder technology related to dry fill drug dosage forms (powder-filled capsules) and the formulation of pharmaceutical tablets. Focus was made on aspects of the work previously neglected, such as the most efficient methods of mixing powders, the properties of mixtures to segregate and the cohesive nature of powder mixes.

The compressibility of powders to form tablets was also studied in considerable depth. An acclaimed first, with the aid and enthusiasm of the department's chief technician, Jack Deer, was the development in the early 1960s of radio techniques to measure the stresses produced in the presses used in the mass-production of tablets. This work was published in conjunction with David Ganderton in the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*.

Shotton was also co-author of an important textbook, *Physical Pharmaceutics* (1974), with Ken Ridgway,

which comprehensively covered the physical material science underlying the practice of drug formulation.

Perhaps Shotton's most original and remarkable contribution to pharmaceutical material science was in the area of the so-called wet formulations: the suspensions, emulsions and creams of medicines. Quality control is of the utmost importance in production of pharmaceuticals: without it, patients' lives are at risk. However, it is not just the method of production which needs control but also pharmaceutical formulation. Shotton realised that, in this connection, the techniques of rheology - the methods of improving the texture of liquid medicines and creams to make it acceptable to patients - would be invaluable.

One particular aspect of this work was triggered by the question "How do some very large water-soluble polysaccharide or protein molecules



stabilise oil-in-water emulsion?"

Shotton realised that these molecules, such as gum acacia Senegal and gelatin (also used extensively in the food industry), do not act on emulsions in the accepted sense. This set of an ongoing research programme which has very surprisingly led back into the heart of clinical medicine and has given an important handle on questions such as "How is the human bone joint lubricated?", "Why does this mechanism fail in arthritic disease?" and "What is the physical function of human saliva?"

Ted Shotton's pastimes included music, particularly Gilbert and Sullivan, playing bowls and fishing in Scotland. He had a warm enthusiastic personality, and a sense of humour and fair play recognised by all.

Brian Warburton

Edward Shotton, pharmaceutical chemist: born Smethwick, Staffordshire 15 July 1910; Senior Lecturer in Pharmaceutics, London University 1948-56; Professor of Pharmaceutics 1956-77 (Emeritus); married 1943 Molly Marchant (one daughter); died Ipswich, Suffolk 22 May 1998.

Jasmine Rose-Innes

"THIS VERY beautiful book," wrote James Cameron, "gives a picture of an extraordinary girlhood - anxious and eager; lonely and obsessed, full of emotional riches..." The book was Jasmine Rose-Innes's *Writing in the Dust*, which appeared 30 years ago.

The "extraordinary girlhood" had been enjoyed and endured in Africa. Jasmine had budded and flowered during the Twenties and Thirties in white man's Rhodesia and in the Cape, but at the same time had undergone real poverty, hardship and cultural claustrophobia, while nursing dazzling dreams of escape.

She was to achieve personal and professional independence and success in wartime Britain - the subject of another autobiography, *Dog Star*, still to be published - and then return to Africa to marry and have children: but to continue thinking, talking, working, developing her various talents, and always deepening her involvement with her family: "one to one" as she put it. Finally it was England again - writing, drawing, painting and, in her last few years, etching.

No one who reads *Writing in the Dust* can fail to notice the writer's youthful capacity for intense compassion and indignation, or the vividness of her experience of beauty and disgust, of anxiety and serenity. As a grown woman, Rose-Innes spent her life not just responding to life but distributing the riches she had received to those around her. The riches of Africa were after all not only emotional riches: they were physical, sensual, aesthetic and generously bestowed.

She was born Jasmine Gordon-Forbes in Somerset in 1915, and brought up in Rhodesia. Her father had been a tea planter in Sumatra and on his retirement bought a farm in Southern Rhodesia. After attending Rhodes University College 1 Grahamstown, Cape Province, where she read Fine Arts, Jasmine came to England in 1934. She worked as an art editor and typographical designer, at the *Geographic Magazine* and for the Ministry of Information.

In 1947 she returned to South Africa and married a scientist, Reg Rose-Innes, who had also studied at Grahamstown. Rose-Innes was involved in the Black Sash movement

- the women's Anti-Apartheid group. When her son, Crispin was born, their great friend Bishop Trevor Huddleston christened him in a black township, as an act of defiance.

At the same time as Jasmine's pregnancy in South Africa, her father was in desperation: the rains hadn't come and the crops had failed. She describes what happened at the end of *Writing in the Dust*:

"... in Rhodesia he was also waiting, watching, but paralysed with disaster. He went over to the Wilsons on New Year's Eve and sat rigid on their stoop, staring at nothing, like a being without a mind. They were going in to Gwelo. 'Come Percy, come, old dear, it's a party - New Year, you know, 1949 - there is always a new beginning.'"

He didn't go with them. He must get back to his farm he said. And so they climbed into their Landrover and left him there, sitting on the stoop, staring into the darkness of the impenetrable bush.

The phrase I most closely associate with her is 'I love it, I love it, I love it!'

When they came back in the early hours of 1949 he was still there, but he no longer stared into the bush. It wasn't really possible to look at him because the part of him that mattered had gone, only his mutilated body was there, and the shotgun where it had fallen from his hand.

Her Christmas present to him was returned.

The parcel of socks came back unwrapped. It had reached Hunter's Road on the 2nd of January. Three weeks later the baby was born. It was a little boy.

A few years later Jasmine and Greg Rose-Innes decided to move to Ghana, feeling that a multi-racial society would be a healthier place in which to live. The family spent nine years at the University of Ghana, where Greg worked as a lecturer, specialising in grasslands. On her return to England in 1962 Jasmine completed a refresher teacher-training course at Goldsmiths' College, and went on to teach art at the North

London Collegiate School for Girls with Peggy Angus, who was head of the art department. She also taught typography and photography at the London College of Printing and started to write about her childhood.

When in 1968 André Deutsch published *Writing in the Dust*, it was awarded the Heinemann Prize; the following year Rose-Innes was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She held numerous exhibitions of paintings and later prints in Sussex and London, accepting commissions right up to the end. In the 1990s she took up etching, and one of her etchings is in the current Royal Academy Summer Show.

I first met her in 1942 when I was 16 and she was 26. We were both Communists, and we met in Denmark Street, off Charing Cross Road, where I was addressing an open-air meeting called for the lifting of the ban on the *Daily Worker*. She was then Art Editor of the *Geographic Magazine* and I had not long before run away from home and was working as a packer in the Party Bookshop off Red Lion Square, waiting to begin active service in the RAF Volunteer Reserve - an underage volunteer for both organisations.

Jasmine Rose-Innes befriended me when I most needed it. She taught me many things about living alone and introduced me to a whole new collection of friends. She made me read modern poetry - Auden and Eliot - and told me about designing. Particularly I remember her skill at lettering (before Letraset was discovered), and her beautifully sure and fine Italian handwriting, on which I began to model my own. She also yanked me out of various depressions and a tendency to over-seriousness, and said that I "must enjoy everything much more". She showed me Box Hill: I'd been there before but not seen it properly.

She began her letters "Oliver dear" which I thought overwhelmingly kind compared with "Dear Oliver". She would never go down to the basement shelter in Russell Court during the air-raids, but preferred to sit up on the eighth floor and talk, rather fast and excitedly about anything and everything. She refused to be bored.

In 1944 I went to Canada for flying training. By that time she was working for the Foreign Office de-



Rose-Innes: the riches of Africa

Maurice Broomfield

signing material to be dropped into occupied countries. We lost touch. But at some time in 1953 or 1954 I saw a photograph of her on the front page of the *Daily Mirror*. She'd been arrested as a member of the Black Sash Movement in South Africa. She looked very dramatic, brightly angry. I saw that she was now (very respectably) married, which made her protest all the stronger. I was very pleased and proud.

When we next met she was teaching at the London College of Printing. She had a son and a daughter and a house in Godstone in Surrey which I thought exactly like Howard's End.

I'd always thought of her more like Helen than like Margaret Schlegel. I don't mean that she was scatty or rude: she was though, extremely generous - one of the most

generous creatures I've ever known. That's what made her such a good teacher and such a good friend. She was swift and impatient and brilliant.

Most of all she was a positive and loving person. The phrase I most closely associate with her is one she must have uttered 20 times a week - whether about the sky or the slope of a down, a leaf or a tree, the behaviour of a child or a bird, or the feel of ink on a brush. "I love it, I love it, I love it!"

Oliver Bernard

Jona Jasmine Gordon-Forbes, designer, painter, photographer, writer, teacher: born Wincoburn, Somerset 26 November 1915; FRSL 1969; married 1947 Reg Rose-Innes (one son, one daughter); died Biddingham, Sussex 15 June 1998.

Sheikh Mohamed Sharawi

ADEL DARWISH's obituary of Sheikh Mohamed Sharawi (19 June) contained factual errors and tendentious statements as part of a curiously venomous attack on the theologian, writes Tim Winter.

Sharawi's popularity rested not on subventions from "oil sheikhs" (who customarily back the Wahhabi sect which is hostile to Sharawi's mysticism), but on his ability to articulate a Muslim identity for ordinary Arabs unpersuaded of the moral coherence of either Western materialism or of violent religious extremism. He opposed violence against the Copts (who are not "Orthodox", as Darwish states, but Monophysites), and rejected rigid interpretations of religious law, permitting, for instance, use of cosmetic surgery on compassionate grounds.

In his influential and hugely popular books (which Darwish fails to mention), Sharawi shows himself an agile interpreter of Islamic law and an advocate of the sophisticated Ash'ari school of Islamic metaphysics, and hence a formidable enemy of the Wahhabi extremism now gaining ground in Egypt's ghettos.

Had Sharawi indeed represented a "message of bigotry and intolerance", the Egyptian government, ever mindful of sectarian tension and itself engaged in a bitter conflict against the extremists, would hardly have tolerated his continual presence on the nation's television screens. Neither would he have attracted such vast audiences, for whom he was, quite simply, the most genuinely loved personality in the Middle East.

Gottfried Dienst

IVAN PONTING's obituary of Gottfried Dienst (8 June) concentrated, not surprisingly, on the ball-over-the-line goal in the World Cup final - but there was much more to his career, including an uncannily similar incident five years earlier, writes Chris Freddi.

In the 1961 European Cup final, when Dienst was a referee, Benfica had just drawn level with the hot favourites Barcelona when a misplaced defensive header drifted back towards Barcelona's goalkeeper and captain Antonio Ramallets. Apparently dazzled by the sun, he could only push the ball against his crossbar, whence it bounced along the goal line. Dienst awarded the goal, Barcelona lost the

match and had to wait another 31 years to win the European Cup for the first time.

In 1965 Dienst achieved the unique feat of refereeing two European finals in the same year, the European Cup again and the Fairs Cup (later the UEFA Cup). He also took charge of the 1968 European Championship final between Italy and Yugoslavia and refereed five matches in World Cup tournaments, including one of the semi-finals in 1962.

However, prominent official though he was, the Germans of 1966 knew what they'd like to have done with him. One of their public relations missives named Goodfriend. His exact date of birth was 9 September 1919.

هكذا من الأصل



Ballestrero: as Archbishop of Turin oversaw carbon-dating and other tests on the Turin Shroud in the 1980s

Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero

CARDINAL ANASTASIO Ballestrero's most controversial duty as Archbishop of Turin for a dozen years was to handle the results of the scientific analysis of the Turin Shroud, of which he was custodian. Within a year of his appointment to Italy's third biggest diocese in 1977, Ballestrero put the relic on display for the first time in four decades. Among the three million pilgrims who came to view what was said to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ was the Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, who was to be elected just six weeks later as Pope John Paul II. He would come to Turin twice more as Pope to pray in front of the relic, once in 1980 and again earlier this year.

Although the shroud had long been kept in the Royal Chapel of Turin cathedral and was in the care of the Archbishop, it was only in 1983 that it was bequeathed to the Pope by the late King Umberto of Savoy. In November 1983

John Paul named Ballestrero as the first Pontifical Custodian, scotching rumours that the relic might be transferred to Rome.

While the Pope showed a great enthusiasm for the shroud, Ballestrero was more restrained. He gave the go-ahead for scientific tests to be conducted on the linen cloth. Initial tests were carried out in October 1978 at the close of the public display of the shroud, followed in years later by more extensive tests, including carbon-dating. Small pieces were cut from the shroud in April 1988 and sent for testing at three laboratories in Oxford, Zurich and Tucson.

Later that year, when the results came back, Ballestrero announced with 95 per cent certainty that the shroud dated from the Middle Ages. He stressed that faith did not depend on the authenticity or otherwise of the shroud. Many thought its days as a relic were numbered. But enthusiasts impressed by the shroud's haunting image of an ap-

parently crucified man continued to believe in its authenticity. Ballestrero's successor as Archbishop of Turin, Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini, who took over as Pontifical Custodian in August 1990, put more faith in the relic's authenticity.

Although named a cardinal by Pope John Paul in June 1979, Ballestrero took a different line to the Pope in other ways. Viewed as a progressive, he rejected the approach of some Catholic movements, including one of the Pope's favourites, Comunione e Liberazione. Reproached by the Pope for not liking them, Ballestrero reportedly replied: "Holiness, when you get to know them better, you won't like them either."

Ballestrero was born in Genoa and after completing school studies entered the Order of Discalced (Barefoot) Carmelites, making his monastic profession when he was 16. He was ordained priest in June 1936. He was Carmelite provincial from 1942 to 1948 and superior general 1955 to 1967. The

respect he had gained as a leader within his order drew him to the attention of Pope Paul VI, who appointed him to the archdiocese of Bari in December 1973. He was consecrated Archbishop in February 1974. After just three years Pope Paul moved him back north in August 1977 to succeed Cardinal Pellegrino as head of the Turin archdiocese.

In May 1979 Ballestrero was elected chairman of the Italian bishops' conference, a post he held until 1985. Noted as a theologian, Ballestrero was the author of a number of books of meditations and on St John of the Cross.

Rex Corley

Anastasio Alberto Ballestrero, priest, born Genoa, Italy, 5 October 1913, clothed a monk 1929; ordained priest 1936; Carmelite Provincial 1942-48; Superior General 1955-67; Archbishop of Bari 1974-77; Archbishop of Turin 1977-89; named a cardinal 1979; died Bocca di Magra, Italy 21 June 1998.

MUSICAL NOTES

JAN SWAFFORD

Passionate hate and extravagant admiration

DURING THE lifetime of Johannes Brahms, Western classical music was in its prime. A chain of extraordinary creators from Haydn to Schumann had made music, for the first time, "the art to which all other arts aspire". In an atmosphere like that, when an art and its public are burgeoning together, rivalries inevitably flare up.

When Brahms reached his maturity the European musical world was raging in what has been called "The War of the Romantics". Commanding the self-proclaimed "Music of the Future" were Richard Wagner and Franz Liszt. The figurehead of the opposite camp (dubbed by Liszt "the posthumous party") was Brahms, whom Robert Schumann had introduced to the world as the virtual Messiah of music.

On closer examination, however, this tidy historical picture blurs. Brahms was not a simple traditionalist, nor the leader of the Brahmsians; his friend the Viennese critic Eduard Hanslick was the conservatives' chief sword-bearer. On the face of it, Brahms pursued his busy and prosperous creative life and left the battles to others. His private attitude toward his rivals further muddles the picture. He happened to admire Wagner's music considerably. Among friends, Brahms habitually praised this rival who regularly excoriated him in print.

It's not that Brahms approved of Wagner's aesthetics. The mountain of philosophy with which Wagner buttressed his revolution appeared to Brahms so much self-serving claptrap. Yet he frequented the operas, studied their scores intensely, and half-seriously called himself "the best of Wagnerians".

Liszt was another matter. Early in his career, Brahms and a friend wrote a manifesto condemning the Music of the Future. Directed at Liszt, the manifesto was leaked before it was ready and served mainly to embarrass the authors and touch off the war. From that point Brahms retired from public musical politics. Brahms had nothing against Liszt personally, and said of his performing: "Whoever has not heard Liszt cannot even speak of piano playing." Liszt's compositions, however, appeared to him utterly fraudulent. He wrote a friend that Liszt's *Christus* "appears so incredibly boring, stupid,



Brahms: brutal at times

and absurd that I can't imagine how the necessary swindle will be perpetrated".

Brahms liked to sit over beer and pontificate; his circle heard many tirades against another rival: "Bruckner? That's a swindle that will be forgotten a year or two after my death." In truth, the anti-Bruckner efforts of Brahms and his ally Hanslick do honour to neither man. If Brahms was brutal at times, he could be remarkably generous when he chose to be. His attacks on Bruckner were the one instance when he deliberately did harm to a defenceless rival.

But was Brahms determined to destroy his competition, excepting only Wagner? No. By his maturity he had found perhaps unprecedented acclaim as a composer, and he knew that perfectly well. If he was simply rivalrous he would not have called himself "the best of Wagnerians". If he wanted to ruin other symphonists he would not have promoted Antonin Dvorak as energetically as he did. He even did favours for composer Hugo Wolf, who as a critic was fanatically anti-Brahmsian.

Brahms showed nothing like Wagner's instinctive contempt for rivals. He brushed aside aesthetics and politics and looked at the crafting of notes. He hated passionately and admired extravagantly. One can quarrel with his opinions, but accept their essential honesty. Brahms responded to rivals with the same deep-rooted integrity that he brought to bear on his own music.

Jan Swafford's *Johannes Brahms: a biography* is published by Macmillan (1990)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

CLEMENS: To Jonathan and Ella, in Sydney, Australia, on 22 June 1998, a daughter, Clara Irene. UK enquiries, 0115 311 2698.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Stuart Bain, Vicar, Spenny-moor, Whitworth and Merrington, and Area Dean of Auckland (Durham); to be also Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral (same diocese).
The Rev Nigel Clemens, Vicar, Northborough St Stephen (Gloucester); to be Rector, Chapel Chilton, Mear and Whitworth (Gloucester).
The Rev John Dugg, Curate, Bury St Anthony (Oxfordshire); to be assistant Curate, Calverton Team (same diocese).
The Rev Clare Herbert, Assistant Curate, St Martin-in-the-Fields (London); to be Rector, Holy St Anne, St Thomas and St Peter (same diocese).
The Rev Glavin Kitch, Priest-in-Charge, Lifford St Andrew (Liverpool); to be Vicar, Ingham St John the Evangelist (same diocese).
The Rev Brian Lillington, Rector, Martineham with Brightwell (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich); to be also Honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of St James, Bury St Edmunds (same diocese).
Canon Philip MacFadyen, Vicar, Barnwell with Farnworth and Wood-bastick, and Chaplain, Norfolk Broads, and Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral (Norwich); to be also Priest-in-Charge, South Walsham and Upton (same diocese).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £2.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Martti Ahtisaari, President of Finland, 61; Mr Stuart Andrews, former Headmaster, Clifton College, 66; Mr Christopher Castleman, formerly chief executive, Hill Samuel, 57; The Very Rev Professor Henry Chadwick, former Master, Peterhouse College, Cambridge, 78; Mr Nicholas Cleobury, conductor, 48; Mr Michael Davies, chairman, Simon Engineering, 64; Sir John Elliott, former Regius Professor of Modern History, Oxford University, 68; Mr Adam Faith, singer and actor, 58; The Right Rev Lord Habgood, former Archbishop of York, 71; Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, 61; Mr John Hayes MP, 40; Mr Julian Hipwood, polo player, 52; Lord Irvine of Lairg QC, Lord Chancellor, 58; Miss Miriam Karlin, actress, 73; Admiral Sir Horace Law, 87; Sir Peter Millett, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 66; Lord Newall, Chairman, British Greyhound Racing Board, 68; Mrs Anne Owens, director, 1876; William Ewart Berry, first Viscount Camrose, newspaper proprietor, 1879; Anna Akhmatova (Anna Andreyevna Gorenko), poet, 1889; Edward, Duke of Windsor, 1894; Dr Alfred Charles Kinsey, sex researcher and writer, 1894; Winifred Holtby, novelist, 1898. Deaths: Vespasian (Titus Flavius Sabinus Vespasianus), Roman emperor, 79; Pedro de Mendoza, soldier and explorer, at sea, 1537; Sir James Hall, geologist and chemist, 1832; Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope, traveller and eccentric, 1839; Horatio MacCulloch, landscape painter, 1887; Sir Joseph Prestwich, geologist, 1898; Cecil James Sharp, founder of the English Folk Society, 1924; Kay Kyser

(James Kern Kyser), band-leader and quizmaster, 1985. On this day: all provincial printing offices were closed by order of the Star Chamber, 1585; a treaty of peace and friendship with the American Indians was signed by the Quaker settler William Penn, 1683; the first evening newspaper, *Davies's News-Letter*, (appearing three times a week) was published in London, 1696; the "June Days" insurrection (23-26 June) broke out in France, 1848; Kettle College, Oxford, opened, 1870; the British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to the Soviet Union, 1951; Gamal Abdel Nasser was elected as president of the Republic of Egypt, 1956; the Royalty Theatre opened in London, 1960; agreement was reached in Luxembourg on the terms of Britain's entry into the Common Market, 1971. Today is the Feast Day of St Agrippina, St Etheldreda or Audrey, St Libert or Liebert, St Thomas Corsini and St Thomas Garnet.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Giambattista Vico, philosopher and jurist, 1668; Josephine de Beauharnais (Marie-Josephe Rose Tascher de la Pagerie), wife of Napoleon, 1763; Irvin Shrewsbury Cobb, playwright novelist and actor, 1876; William Ewart Berry, first Viscount Camrose, newspaper proprietor, 1879; Anna Akhmatova (Anna Andreyevna Gorenko), poet, 1889; Edward, Duke of Windsor, 1894; Dr Alfred Charles Kinsey, sex researcher and writer, 1894; Winifred Holtby, novelist, 1898. Deaths: Vespasian (Titus Flavius Sabinus Vespasianus), Roman emperor, 79; Pedro de Mendoza, soldier and explorer, at sea, 1537; Sir James Hall, geologist and chemist, 1832; Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope, traveller and eccentric, 1839; Horatio MacCulloch, landscape painter, 1887; Sir Joseph Prestwich, geologist, 1898; Cecil James Sharp, founder of the English Folk Society, 1924; Kay Kyser

(James Kern Kyser), band-leader and quizmaster, 1985. On this day: all provincial printing offices were closed by order of the Star Chamber, 1585; a treaty of peace and friendship with the American Indians was signed by the Quaker settler William Penn, 1683; the first evening newspaper, *Davies's News-Letter*, (appearing three times a week) was published in London, 1696; the "June Days" insurrection (23-26 June) broke out in France, 1848; Kettle College, Oxford, opened, 1870; the British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to the Soviet Union, 1951; Gamal Abdel Nasser was elected as president of the Republic of Egypt, 1956; the Royalty Theatre opened in London, 1960; agreement was reached in Luxembourg on the terms of Britain's entry into the Common Market, 1971. Today is the Feast Day of St Agrippina, St Etheldreda or Audrey, St Libert or Liebert, St Thomas Corsini and St Thomas Garnet.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Norman Coady, "Match of the Day (iv): Titian, matching men and gods for Philip II of Spain", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Neil Carlton, "Techniques of Making

Armour, East and West", 2.30pm. British Museum: Barbara Brend, "The Juki Shahnama: a 15th-century Islamic Manuscript", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Rebecca Lyons, "King of the Ditchbacks? Seamus Heaney and Painting the Poet", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Peter Hughes, "French 19th-century Filing Cabinets", 1pm.

DINNERS

Defence and Security Forum. Lady Olga Maitland, President, Defence and Security Forum, presided over a dinner held yesterday evening at the Carlton Club, London SW1. Lord Deedes was the guest speaker. Colonel Philip Howes also spoke.

HEYWOOD HILL LITERARY PRIZE

The fourth annual Heywood Hill Literary Prize has been awarded jointly to Richard Ollard, the biographer and historian, and Norman Lewis, the novelist and travel writer. The presentation of £15,000, shared between the winners, was made on Friday 19 June by F.D. James (Baroness James of Holland Park) at Chatsworth, Derbyshire.

Duchess of Kent attends the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, London SW19.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

Delivery of goods was supply for VAT

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

23 JUNE 1998

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Thorn Materials Supply Ltd and another

House of Lords (Lord Brown-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan, Lord Hoffman and Lord Clyde) 18 June 1998

WHERE A sale contract was made between two members of the same VAT group, with part of the consideration to be paid at the date of the agreement and the rest to be paid on delivery of the goods, and at the date of delivery of the goods the vendor company had left the group, VAT was chargeable on the whole of the consideration, since the delivery of the goods constituted the taxable supply.

The House of Lords dismissed the appeal of Thorn Materials Supply Ltd ("Materials") and Thorn Resources Ltd ("Resources") against the decision of the Court of Appeal that they were liable to pay value added tax in respect of sale transactions carried out between them as vendors and Thorn EMI Home Electronics Ltd ("Home") as purchaser. Nigel Fleming QC and Christopher Vojda QC (Solicitors, Customs and Excise) for the Commissioners; Kevin Prosser QC and Elizabeth Wilson (Rouse & Mow) for the appellants.

Lord Nolan said that the three companies were at all material times wholly-owned subsidiaries of Thorn EMI plc. The case had been argued by reference to a single representative transaction. By a written agreement dated 29 November 1993, Materials agreed to sell certain goods to Home. The price was to be 105 per cent of the VAT exclusive cost to Materials of buying the goods from a third party. Delivery was to take place during the period ended 31 March 1994.

The advance payment of 90 per cent, totalling £33,834,140, was duly made on 29 November

1993. By a loan agreement of the same date, Materials agreed to lend Home a similar amount at an interest rate of 5.6875 per cent. The loan was expressed to be for an initial period of three years and a day, but Home was entitled to repay it any time, or to set it off against its liabilities to Materials.

On 6 December 1993 Materials ceased to be a member of the Thorn VAT group. After that date Materials bought and paid for the goods which it had contracted to sell to Home. Some of those goods were already owned by Home at the date of the agreement of 29 November 1993. Consequently, on 21 January 1994 the goods were supplied by Home to Materials in order that Materials could supply them back to Home under the sales contracts.

The appellants had not suggested for a moment that the transaction was designed for any purpose other than the avoidance of value added tax,

but had argued that the advance payment fell squarely within the terms of section 5(1) of the 1983 Act, and the supply was to be treated as taking place at the time when the advance payment was received. At that time Materials and Home fell to be treated as members of a group under section 29(1) of the Act. It followed that the supply must be disregarded, to the extent of 90 per cent, under section 29(1)(a), and only the remaining 10 per cent of the supply could be taxed.

However, section 29(1) and Art 4.4 of the Sixth Council Directive (77/388/EEC) were designed not to confer exemption or relief from tax, but to simplify and facilitate the collection of tax by treating the representative member of a VAT group as if it were carrying on in the businesses of the other members as well as its own, and dealing on their behalf with all non-members.

When Materials and Resources left the Thorn group they became separate taxable persons. The delivery of the goods by them to Home undoubtedly constituted a transfer of the whole property in the goods in the course of business. It constituted a supply of the goods within the meaning of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 2 to the Act, taxable under section 10(2) upon the amount of consideration whether already paid or still payable. It followed that the whole value of the supplies in question fell fairly and squarely within the charging provisions of the Act according to the normal principles of construction which should be applied to a taxing statute.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

BACKSLANG FOR BOY is the OED's explanation of the origin of the word yob, but can we really believe that a yob is no more than a backward boy?

There are only four other words in the OED cited as examples of backslang, and one of them is labelled "uncertain". *Naves* ("seven" backwards) is

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
Yob n. (slang)

given as a slang term for seven years' hard labour; *rouf* is backslang for four shillings; *pinnif* is a five-pound note, allegedly via *finnip*, out of *finnif*, said to

be a Yiddish pronunciation of the German *fünf*. The uncertain one is *naf*, linked tentatively with *fan* in its rude connotation ("see FANNY", says the OED, and tells you to "CEFF v.")

Yob, whether a boy in reverse or not, dates back at least to 1850, so he is older than hoodigan. Yobbo arrived in 1922.

Want a baby? Move to Glasgow

Couples with difficulty conceiving may be refused treatment unfairly. But how to decide what's fair in the fertility stakes? By Ann Treneman

Helen and Gary Nicholson should be the ideal candidates for infertility treatment. They are in their early thirties and, after several failed pregnancies, they are desperate to have a family. "I've never been much for a career," says Helen. "I've always just wanted to get married, have a house and a couple of kids. You know, a nice family." But Helen and Gary have been told that this simply is not possible. The reason? It could be that they live in Slough.

Berkshire Health Authority have told us that unless we had some sort of genetic defect then there was no budget for IVF treatment," says Helen, aged 31. Unfortunately, though, Helen has a history of ectopic pregnancies and blocked fallopian tubes. Nothing genetic there.

So Helen and Gary have had to create their own budget for it. Money is tight. She is the office manager for a transport company and he is a lorry driver. All their spare cash goes into their "IVF Fund". So far they have managed to afford £1,500 towards one attempt (which failed). They haven't had a holiday in five years.

"Now we've put our flat on the market here to try and sell it to move up to Glasgow," says Helen, who comes from Ayr. "We'd always planned to move back. We'd rather stay here for another few years but the health authority up there does fund IVF treatment. It is unfair, because now we will be a burden to the Ayrshire and Arran authority when Berkshire should have paid."

It is called the "babies by post-code" factor, and the truth is that Gary and Helen have a seven-times better chance of receiving IVF on the National Health in Scotland. Nor is their situation particularly unusual. "The fact remains that one in six couples experience difficulty in their attempts to conceive. Sadly, there are few signs that NHS provision to help them with their problems is improving," says infertility specialist Mr William Ledger.

Throughout the country, one couple living on one side of the street may find themselves eligible for infertility treatment while a neighbour living across the street (and in a different authority) is not. In Helen's case, for instance, a co-worker and his wife who live in the nearby town of Feltham (covered by Middlesex Health Authority) has just had a baby after receiving IVF on the NHS. "It's brilliant for them," she says. "It was lovely to see them succeed, but heartbreaking that I was not in that position."

No one - neither patient nor doctor - thinks the situation is fair. Yesterday, a survey by the National Infertility Awareness Campaign showed that nine out of 10 specialists believed couples are being unfairly turned away. Now the campaign has called for national guidelines to remedy a situation in which each of the 125 health authorities sets its own criteria as to who can receive infertility treatment.

"We think there should be guidelines on the level of treatment based on clinical judgement rather than rationing, which is what we have at the moment," said Clare Brown, president of the NIAC. She believes that current chaos stems in part from the fact that infertility is not seen as a "real" illness. "It's not taken seriously. Often people will put it alongside something like tattoo removal or liposuction."



Helen and Gary Nicholson cannot get IVF treatment on the NHS in Slough, but they might in Scotland. Fertility specialist Dr Ian Craft, below, believes age is a selection factor

Ben Gurr

This attitude is reflected in the patchwork of criteria that means that some authorities will not treat a woman who is, say, 36 while others will treat a 40-year-old. In addition, there can be criteria that insist a couple is married (though others look for something they call a stable relationship). Couples can also be turned away if they have any previous children, even if they are from an earlier relationship or adopted.

Health professionals believe that any national guidelines would have to set an age limit of some sort. "The success rate after the age of 43 can be rather dismal," says Dr Ian Craft, director of the private London Fertility Centre. "You would have to set an age limit or it would be a free-for-all." He would see the age of 40 as being an appropriate cut-off for women using their own eggs.

Dr Elizabeth Lenton is director of the Sheffield Fertility Centre which has both public and private patients. She agrees that there would have to be an age limit. "At the moment, some will not treat women over the age of 35 and not many fund women over 40 because of the biological decline in fertility. Of course, it isn't strictly related to age. Some women of 38 are more fertile than

other women of 36." A reasonable national guideline, she believes, would be somewhere in between, say age 37 or 38.

Some authorities also place an age limit on men. There is no medical reason to do so but, in infertility treatment, the medical and the social often overlap. In this case it seems that many clinics believe that any child has the right to a father and that the chances of having one that is alive for very long decreases if a man is, say, aged 60.

Guidelines are bound to contain some form of social policing. Some authorities now require that a couple be married while others try to assess whether a couple's relationship is stable. The problem with this is obvious. "There really are no guarantees when it comes to relationships. How can you prove a relationship is stable?" asked Clare Brown of NIAC.

The question of whether the couple (or either partner) has had previous children is also difficult. "Is it appropriate, for instance, for a couple who have six or seven children and now want more to receive treatment?" asks Dr Lenton. Another fairly common request for infertility treatment comes from parents

who have been sterilised but have now decided that they do, in fact, want more children.

The chances are, however, that in the future such couples will still have to go private. (A NIAC survey of 1,300 men and women who had undergone treatment recently found three-quarters had been forced to pay for some or all of it. On average each had spent £3,240, excluding the cost of drugs. One in four were successful in having a child.) This is because the NHS will have to draw the line somewhere and Dr Lenton sees that line being drawn after two children. "I would be in favour of saying having one or no children would be fine in terms of the guidelines. I think you have to allow IVF to those who have one child. That's what all this is about. It's about making families, not just lots of single children."

The guidelines would also cover the extent and the type of treatment allowed. One infertility specialist suggested that a treatment with a 30 per cent success rate would be allowed on the NHS while one with a 5 per cent success rate would not. Nor would couples be allowed endless attempts at, say, IVF. "It should not be seen as a right but at the moment when it comes to IVF most au-

thorities will only fund one treatment, which is grossly inadequate," says Dr Lenton. "But it would be inappropriate to say that all couples must have three treatments. It has to be a common sense approach. All things being equal, a couple probably should have three attempts at IVF."

This may all sound rather sensible, but experts are gloomy as to whether such guidelines can ever be agreed upon with current budgetary restraints in place. But it is also true that couples who are striving to have a baby may be under enormous financial and emotional strains which can cause a whole other set of problems. For instance, more than half the couples responding to the NIAC survey had experienced depression and one in 20 had felt suicidal.

Clare Brown notes that the government has asked the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for guidelines on infertility but that would be only the first step in a time-consuming process. And time is exactly what the likes of Helen and Gary Nicholson do not have. Biological clocks do not follow budgetary cycles. Certainly Helen and Gary will be keeping their flat on the market - and their fingers crossed.



The secret passion of the chattering classes: a pub quiz

Showing off for charity is all the rage. By Anne McElvay

IT IS Sunday night in the River Café in Hammersmith and sleek waitresses are handing round plates of glorious Tuscan food. Ruth Rogers looks on, surprisingly benign for a chef

whose dishes are receiving far less attention than a plate of chopped up and melting chocolate bars with numbered flags stuck into them.

Tom Stoppard stares at a piece of chocolate. His ex-wife Dr Miriam dissects another with scientific rigour, and they confer in a whisper. The director Richard Eyre nibbles thoughtfully before scribbling down a verdict. Peter Mandelson sits silent - he does not do

chocolate. Nick Hornby, having just published a best-seller featuring a small boy might be expected to know a thing or two about sweets. But like Jeremy Irons and Doris Satchi, he is stumped by the fifth sample.

The blind tasting is one of the more unpredictable questions thought up by Gill Hornby and her team for an event that is rapidly overtaking charity gala dinners and auctions in the social calendar.

This is the pub quiz for the chattering classes, the perfect opportunity to show off your knowledge and raise money for charity. But the high calibre of contestants and their naturally competitive streak introduced an edge of desperation quite out of place at an amateur event.

The standard is suitably high for an event at which Jeremy Paxman asks the questions and Jon Snow gives the vote of

thanks. Before we got to the taste test, we had identified the first and last doges of Venice, pinned down snatches of political speeches and shipping areas on maps, decoded long-forgotten chemical formulae, remembered (or not) the number of stomachs in a cow. My husband earned his stripes by informing us that "Boh" your uncle" first came into common parlance when Arthur Balfour became a minister under Lord Salisbury, aka his uncle, Robert Cecil.

The elegant Ms Hornby whisks around, switching on archive recordings and presiding over the final court of appeal. "What is the name for people from Newcastle-upon-Tyne?" asks the question master, Jeremy Paxman. "I'm not accepting 'Geordies'," says Gill. (Novocastrians, since you ask.)

The quiz was started three years ago by the author John Mortimer and his wife Penny to raise money for deprived children, and now the £100 a head tickets for the evening - this time in aid of Treehouse, a charity that provides schooling for autistic children - are snapped up.

For a too brief while, our table, which includes John Ven-



Jeremy Paxman, Peter Mandelson and Tom Stoppard were among the contestants

ning, bead of English at St Paul's School, and Joyce Hytner from the Royal Court Theatre, remains in contention, sustained by history, politics and literature. Then disaster strikes, with the law round.

Our collapse continues with the science questions. Then all hope is dashed by the comedy round. "Don't worry," says my neighbour. "No one here watches television." The questions that stump the whole gathering are instructive: last year, no one knew the basic rate of income tax.

But it turns out that some contestants do know the name of Raquel Trotter's daughter in *Only Fools and Horses*. A really crack team would never leave such a vital flank open. Publisher Neil Mendoza appears so

bent on victory that you wonder whether, like the England squad, he gave up sex and baked beans to achieve it.

Behind the social babble rage violent competitive passions. Mendoza's team features his business partner William Sieghart, the drama critic and Renaissance man John Gross and the Spectator TV critic James Delingpole. They won the first quiz three years ago and lost last year to a team featuring Robert Harris, the novelist and husband of Gill Hornby.

Gross felt that the combination on one team of the question setter's spouse and her brother raised questions of quiz insider-trading. Rivalry is still intense. This year, Mendoza's team beat a Harris, Hornby and Mandelson into third place.

"We were so excited that having to stop for dinner was a real blow," says Mendoza. "The adrenaline and bile directed at us throughout the evening were incredible." To make themselves even more unpopular, in the interval the team worked on another, postal quiz to keep their momentum going.

The thoroughly English, more-important-to-take-part-than-win attitude of the contestants on such occasions rebels against those who treat an amateur pastime as though it were a professional matter.

It seems strange that people who spend their working life striving for prominence in pressurised, competitive situations are gagging to spend a summer Sunday night doing exactly the same thing. Or maybe not.

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It's still a straight world

The age of consent may be lowered, but gays will still face severe legal and fiscal prejudices. By Jack O'Sullivan

WHEN LUIS Canizares lost his life-long partner, it was some comfort that the two men had prepared financially for death. Having lived together for 36 years, they had made wills in each other's favour. So although their dream of retiring together to a small place in the sun in southern Spain had been dashed, Luis thought that, perhaps, he could afford to realise their hopes alone.

But even that was not to be. Despite last night's vote on equalising at 16 the homosexual and heterosexual ages of consent, same sex couples still suffer serious financial discrimination. It hits them worst when one partner dies.

Luis and John (not his real name) had enjoyed a happy relationship and set up home in south west London. Luis had supported his partner through his final years, when he suffered from depression. John died in his arms.

But it was a financially unequal relationship. John, a successful writer, had always made more money. "We agreed early on," says Luis, an artist, "that I would stay at home and keep our house, that one of us had to take a step backwards if we were to save our relationship."

But John thought he had ensured that Luis would be provided for if anything happened to him. However, John, who died, aged 67, of a brain haemorrhage in 1996, had not been buried long when Luis's financial troubles began. First, the Inland Revenue demanded £80,000 in taxes on his inheritance. Had the couple been married, the Revenue accepted, there would have been no charge. But, because they were unmarried, Luis faced tax demands on everything he had inherited - a half share in their home plus some shares. John's former employers then revealed that, unlike a widow or widower, Luis had no rights to his lover's pension. Nor could Luis expect a penny from a life insurance policy worth nearly £100,000. John had not specifically named him as a beneficiary because it would have increased the premiums. Luis quickly set aside his hopes of living in Andalusia. He also became highly critical of lawyers who, he says, advise poorly on the particular problems their gay clients face.

"I have lady friends who say that everyone has to cope with financial problems after a death," says Luis. "But it's not the same. I have not only lost the one I love. I also face tremendous financial insecurity. When their husbands die, they know the cheques will start coming in regularly and they don't have to worry."

Such issues demonstrate that equalising the age of consent at 16 for homosexuals and heterosexuals is only one aspect of the legal discrimination which same sex couples face. "This government is barking up the wrong tree," says Luis. "If a boy of 16 wants to make love, he will do it whether it is legal or illegal. The issue that the law needs to address is that you can sweep aside 36 years of life and pretend that nothing has grown in human or legal terms."

Anya Palmer of Stonewall, the gay and lesbian pressure group, highlights the current unfairness: "At the moment, heterosexual couples can be married 36 days and leave £36m and there is no ceiling on what can be left to a spouse."

The consequences of such inequality can be severe. "I'm one of the lucky ones," says Luis, who has managed to pay his tax bill. "Many of my friends have had to sell their homes. Some are destitute, facing bills which they have no pensions to pay."

It could have been worse for Luis. If John had not made a will, Luis would have had no legal claim on his estate. Had the couple not owned the property, he might also have been homeless. In a recent case, a gay man lost his claim to take over the tenancy of a home he shared with his now deceased partner. An appeal is due to be heard by the House of Lords.

Circumventing the immigration rules is also much harder for same sex couples. Since last year, the regulations have been relaxed. Now, a couple in which one partner is from outside the European Union can gain British residency by proving that the pair have lived like a married couple for four years. But this is still three years longer than the period required of married couples.

It is whether a couple is married or not that causes the discrimination. Gay, lesbian and unmarried heterosexual couples are all in the same boat in the eyes of the law and the taxman.

Legal redress may be on the way. Registered partnership laws have been passed in the last decade in several Scandinavian countries, notably Sweden. These changes provide almost the same rights as civil marriage, except over children. A number of MPs, notably Ben Bradshaw, the first openly gay candidate to win a seat, want these reforms to apply here. But, if they are instituted in Britain, they will come too late for Luis Canizares and thousands of other grieving partners.



Luis Canizares: 'If a boy of 16 wants to make love, he will do it, legal or illegal. The issue that the law needs to address is that you can sweep aside 36 years of life and pretend that nothing has grown in human or legal terms.' Neville Elder

The same-sex couple's survival guide

HOW SAME-SEX couples can avoid losing out when their partner dies.

- Make a will, otherwise your partner can expect nothing. If you have children, make sure your partner is mentioned as your preferred guardian. This may help in any future court case.

- Unlike married couples, you cannot avoid having to pay tax on inheritances above £223,000 (at 40 per cent). But it is possible to take out an insurance policy against a big inheritance tax bill.

- Work for one of the few companies, such as John Lewis, British Telecom and Powergen, which allow same-sex couples

to transfer pension rights to their partners when they die. Most of the public sector still refuses to allow this flexibility, although the old universities (as distinct from former polytechnics) have liberalised their rules.

- Argue with your occupational pension scheme for a change in their rules. Always, in any case, nominate your partner as a dependent. Most pension-scheme trustees have residual discretion about a pension after the first claimant has died. Some are prepared to hand over a lump sum payment, if not a regular income, to your named partner.

- There is a further reason for making your relationship clear

in your will. The Inland Revenue, which has to approve pension sales, has traditionally allowed survivors' benefits to be paid only to dependants, a term interpreted as families. But it has recently relaxed interpretation so that mutual dependence rather than dependence need be demonstrated.

- You could take out a personal pension. This offers flexibility - your partner should have no trouble inheriting. The downside is that it can prove more expensive and less generous than staying in an occupational pension scheme.

- Name your partner as "next of kin" in your will. This will make it easier for them to have

a say in any medical care. You could also grant your partner "power of attorney", which is helpful when dealing with the medical profession if you are incapacitated.

- If you are embarking on a relationship with a partner from outside the European Union and you think it could be long standing, collect evidence of your relationship. This could prove valuable in future because the immigration authorities demand evidence that you have been living together like a married couple for at least four years.

- If you rent your home, seek joint tenancy. Otherwise you could be evicted if your partner holds the tenancy and dies.

REVELATIONS

TABITHA WADY, ACTRESS, LONDON, 1996

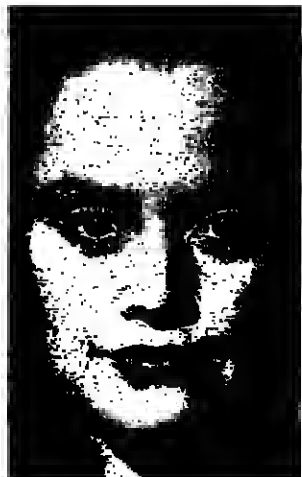
I was fat and unhappy, so I got fatter and happier

MY PARENTS' divorce was the start of my weight problems. I still remember vividly when they split up, though I was only four. I was terribly angry, especially towards my dad. He would often criticise me for eating so many chocolate biscuits. When you're a child that really hurts. He wanted the best for me, but saw only the external part. I always felt a great pressure to be thinner. I believed it was my duty to be protective towards my mum and younger sister, especially as my mother worked all night as a nurse. So I was horrified when the man who was to become my step-father was introduced. I presented him terribly because he was taking away Mum. I was absolutely revolting. I used to snap "you're not my father". I'd stamp upstairs and slam my bedroom door and play my records loud. While he was terribly patient with me, I was volatile and feisty. By nine, I was worried enough about my weight to join Weight Watchers. It affected me a great deal. My sister was slim, blonde with blue eyes - completely different from me. I was never jealous

of her but I desperately wanted to be Madonna, and dressed a ra-ra skirt more than anything in the world.

Even at 11, there were girls at school who seemed glamorous and sorted, with boyfriends and horses. I was particularly gorgeous; I was still overweight and a bit boring, and I desperately wanted to be an actress. I must have seemed a bit odd. Certainly nobody knew how to react to me. Although it was an ordinary, all-girls comprehensive, there was a trend to be anorexic. I was never massive, just a normal teenager, but everybody was into it so I joined in. Terrible though it sounds, there was a phase when I ate only 500 calories a day. I'd have an orange for breakfast, and perhaps an apple for lunch. Obviously I did lose weight, but it went up and down. I remember sitting in my bedroom listening to the Smiths, and one particular track called "Last Night I Dreamt Somebody Loved Me". I thought I'd never have a boyfriend.

I arrived at drama school quite slim and fairly happy



with my weight. However, the first six months in London, away from home, were quite miserable. We would have to wear Lycra leggings and a leotard for country dancing - I was forever worrying what everybody would think of my thighs, and listening to how they would swallow a mug full of vegetable oil to make themselves sick. It was like a competition - somebody else chipped in that you had to

The turning point came when an agent said to me: 'You're a really good actress but you could lose some weight'

vomit within 20 minutes or it would be too far down. I took the opposite approach. Having a hard time and hating everybody, I ate lots of naughty things and became particularly partial to Marks & Spencer's individual Christmas cakes. I was putting on weight again and became paranoid. Everybody would tell me I was pretty, but needed to be thinner if I wanted to be a lead rather than a char-

acter actress. We had a Russian teacher who, as part of my assessment, told me to watch my weight or it could become a problem later. It drove me nuts. He had picked up on my worst fear: it could stop me achieving everything I wanted. I flew home to Bath, devastated, and told my mum. But she thought that maybe he was right. More floods of tears and I was back in my bedroom, listening to the Smiths.

The turning-point came after I invited an agent, who had praised a small part I played in a film, to my end-of-course shows. I'd worked hard, and given as good as I could, but her opinion was: "You're a really good actress, but you could lose some weight. Get down to the gym."

This time, I'd had enough. During my final year, 1996, a lot of the female teachers were more supportive and I started getting better roles. It had been slowly dawning on me: by believing the only way of achieving success was to weigh less, I was lining myself up for trouble and heartache. If this is what my life is going

to revolve around, I thought, I'm not going to enjoy it very much. So I decided to be an actress rather than the stereotypical pretty girl. Finally having got my priorities right, I found a different agent. I needed someone who believed in my talent. It was time to come to terms with being me.

Recently I read an article about Jennifer Aniston of *Friends*, which said that to be an actress you had to be thin - the biggest rubbish I've ever heard. Acting is about transformation: if you want to be play different characters you need to be able to adapt - mentally and physically. I went for an audition for the lead in a feature film as a sumo wrestler. It's about a girl from Yorkshire who hates her body but whose husband thinks she's beautiful and makes her do soft-porn pictures. It is so brilliantly written and inspiring because she learns to believe in herself. I decided I must play it. But they told me: you're a bit thin. Hallelujah! So I agreed to put on weight. I've been eating all sorts of yummy things, and am now a stone and a half heavier.

There is nothing better to conquer your demons than going all out for something. Other young women, who are being told you have to be stick-thin to be acceptable, will watch this film and see you can be beautiful without living on carrot sticks.

My weight is no longer an issue, partly because I don't put my parents on pedestals any more. I've learnt forgiveness - in the long run the divorce was for the best. These days it is my stepfather or my mum who I go to with my problems, while my dad has become more like a friend. He is still hard to impress; I always feel I have to work so hard to make him proud - which probably isn't true or fair. Will I lose weight after finishing my sumo film? It depends on what happens next. Perhaps I'll play an anorexic supermodel - why not? But I'd have to wear very high heels for that.

Tabitha Wady plays Lydia in *Berkeley Square* on BBC1, on Sunday nights at 8pm.

INTERVIEW BY ANDREW G MARSHALL

JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

3. THE WORLD CUP
BY RACHEL CUSK
NOVELIST

I DON'T have all that much time for modern life. It is amazing, people say in awed tones, what they can do now.

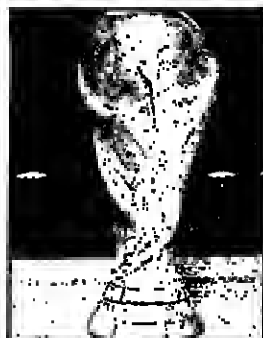
What amazes me is how little they can do. Modern life mostly consists of a series of claims to have found a short-cut through some natural practicality, which usually results in a more destructive, unpleasant, man-made obstruction being created.

Every now and again, the modern world comes up with something that almost compensates for low-calorie food, roadworks, landfill sites, genetic engineering, global warming, nuclear weapons, and the fact that profit-making supermarkets bleach your carrots and then dye them orange again without telling you. One of those things is the World Cup.

A live international sporting event goes some way towards justifying the existence of television, air travel and vast corporations, without one of which it either couldn't happen, couldn't happen so often or couldn't happen in front of me.

Occurring quadriennially like some arcane astrological phenomenon, the World Cup is the chief comet in the sporting sky. For the next month, thoughts of the M25 will lose their sting. The World Cup justifies the modern world, at least temporarily.

Though it depends on so much that we think of as characterising progress, the principles of the World Cup are in fact the reverse of those of globalisation. At its heart is what almost amounts to a democratic movement: a mass conspiracy to unprofitable pleasure centred around an incorruptible aesthetic. According to this democracy, those powers who usually and indiscriminately control our lives are instead relegated to its fringes as



providers and facilitators. In their place are individuals and nations, returning to scale our grossly distorted map of the world. If the modern world is fuelled by generalisation, homogeneity, indifference, speed and greed, then the World Cup is its opposite: a festival of staying in one place, of paying attention, of detail, of caring, of differentiation. Sport is an excellent alternative to war, although the English appear to have difficulty telling the difference, and as well as proving that competition is not the same as hatred, the World Cup is fast becoming a small crucible of humanitarianism.

There may be all sorts of reasons for this; an important one is the moral structure of the game itself. Cheating, violence, racial slander, ungraciousness and ungentlemanly conduct, all of which are casually tolerated in society, are in international football abhorred with Victorian zeal. One-tenth of the self-disgust with which we regard English fans rioting abroad, if applied to our foreign policies, would make the world a better place. The ethical acuity of the football commentator, his obsession with fairness, his hatred of injustice, are positively heretic. Our disapproval of oppressive foreign regimes is suddenly vocal, our interest in Nigeria profound, our support for Jamaica wholehearted. Scotland's lack of support for us is confirmed. The World Cup gives us the opportunity to demonstrate that beneath the problems of territory, material gain, poverty and privilege, we are quite nice.

Those of us who aren't referred to as a small minority intent on spoiling things for everybody else. If only things were always about talent and team work and fairness and cultural richness, and everybody all together enjoying something that doesn't automatically hurt anybody else. The funny thing about the World Cup, though, is that the only people in it are MEN.

Down the A13 via Route 66

It could be a recipe for disaster: Essex man sets US folk icon's lyrics to music. But has Woody Guthrie found a soul mate in Billy Bragg? By Glyn Brown

So what did happen to Billy Bragg, the man *The Sunday Times* recently dismissed as "an Eighties protest singer"? The man with the atonal Dagenham croak who founded Red Wedge and gave us such gems as "Levi Stubbs' Tears" and the beautiful "A New England". Now we've got an alleged new England. Is there anywhere to go? After a steady trickle of albums, there'll be a Best Of... along soon, but in the interim, something more fortuitous has fallen into Bragg's lap. He has been charged by Woody Guthrie's daughter with the job of breathing new life into the songs of the legendary American protest singer, whose grainy ballads told the tale of the dust-storm devastation of Thirties Oklahoma, and the families who fled to California, the promised land - only to wind up destitute in migrant workers' camps.

The dustbowl blues are the works we know best, but Guthrie, who left the midwest for Texas, LA and eventually New York, wrote more than a thousand songs. In 1954 he was hospitalised with the hereditary wasting disease Huntington's chorea and, though he scribbled on until his death in 1967, the illness saw him excluded from the folk scene he had kick-started.

He had recorded only a fraction of his own songs when his daughter Nora, who runs the Woody Guthrie archive on New York's West 57th Street, found a stash of lyrics. She set about finding someone who could give them melodies, and her choice was a troubadour from the hadlands of Essex.

The route was circuitous. In 1991, Bragg wrote a song around the title of an erotic Guthrie drawing, *You Woke Up My Neighbourhood*; the following year, he played it at a concert to mark the 80th anniversary of Woody's birth. In 1996, he was there for Guthrie's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. "I've been asked," he said, "to do something in the spirit of Woody Guthrie. So I'm gonna go and have a piss from the balcony and steal all the cutlery backstage."



"Here is someone who knows what dad was really like," thought Nora, sick of Guthrie's status as holy cultural icon. Bragg took some persuading, but not too much. "Initially, I didn't think I was the person to take on his legacy - but when I realised how much stuff there was, I thought, 'It's not like I'm working with the last few scraps, and if I screw it up, there'll still be a lot left.'"

In addition, the idea wasn't to make a tribute album but to turn out a collaboration, with Guthrie's lyrics, Bragg and post-grunge rockers Wilco writing tunes and singing vocals. The result, *Mermaid Avenue* (named after Guthrie's Coney Island family home), is cool, rocky and fresh. The songs deal with love, lust and footloose dreamers, and you'd never know they were 50 years old.

But then Guthrie is not an historical relic, as Bragg points out. He opens a folder full of copies of the original lyrics, scrawled in Guthrie's increasingly scrambled handwriting. "Look at this," he says, thrusting the bible into my hands. "See what this one's called?" The song is *My Flying Saucer*. It seems strange that Woody was space age...

"Never mind that," says Bragg. "See the note, top left-hand corner? What does it say?"

"Supersonic boogie." I mumble, thinking that Bragg would make a fine schoolteacher.

"Instead of this little guy in the dust bowl, like some character in *The Grapes of Wrath*, you realise he's living in New York City at the most exciting time. This stuff shows he was a living, breathing man."

A bit of a womanising, boozing, wild man, by all accounts. "He was a punk rocker!" Bragg hoots. "And when I saw 'supersonic boogie' - what he wanted, though he couldn't move - it was like Woody was whispering in my earhole saying, 'Go on, I dare you to take these sacred texts and do what I would've done with them.'"

It seems odd that Nora asked an Englishman to interpret an American legend - but it was sensibility, not accent, she was worried about. Guthrie and Bragg play on the same team, politically speaking - Guthrie's guitar bore the celebrated legend, "This machine kills fascists" - and Bragg is keen to point out that half the songs Guthrie grew up with, sung to him by his grandmother, were English folk ballads. "We forget that the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant population of the States is an immigrant culture, and Woody's people come from the same place my people come from. I don't mean Dagenham. But you know that song on



Billy Bragg (above) agreed to the task of writing melodies to lyrics by Woody Guthrie (above left)

Rex Features/Redferns

the album, "Unwelcome Guest"? You'd think it's about a Jesse James-type outlaw, but his horse is called Black Bess. Now, whose horse was called Black Bess? So that, to me, became a highwayman ballad. When I wrote the tune, I thought it should sound like "Streets of Laredo", and the tune of that is from an English ballad, "St James Infirmary".

Other songs from the collection

range from an ode to Joe DiMaggio to the Sputnik launch in 1957. How painful was it for Bragg, and Wilco's Jeff Tweedy, to sift through words written in the last stages of Guthrie's illness? "Nora won't have him seen as a victim. Me and Tweedy came across this song which is just verse, verse, verse, going, 'Oh God, Oh God, Oh God' and we imagined him drowning in this terrible disease. But

Nora said it may have been revelation - 'Oh God! Oh God!' - or may have been his mantra. I've learnt a lot about positivity from her."

Does Bragg feel he ever did more in the Eighties than preach to the converted? "Well, first, it's about entertainment. And then, was I true to what I believed in? And if I feel that I was, that's all I can do. I can't go out and look for signs of how my

songs changed the world - it's pointless, frankly." Woody Guthrie would probably grin, light a cigarette, and say the same.

The album *Mermaid Avenue* is released by EastWest today. The book *Woody Guthrie: A Life* by Joe Klein (Faber & Faber) has just been reprinted with a foreword by Billy Bragg.

Senses ablaze in acrobatic love triangle

NOTHING QUITE heralds summer like an evening inside a small tent listening to the mesmeric drops of rain on canvas. But just fancy! All that atmospheric fun can be had without resorting to the Glastonbury mudbath. No scratching in the dark for lost tent-pegs, and home afterwards to use your own loo. Bliss.

The French circus Que-Cir-Que have pitched up on London's Highbury Fields for their UK debut at the Islington International Festival. Forget the raucous chainsaw-wielding excess of Archais, or the baroque spectacle of Cirque du Soleil; this is a minimalist operation, offering elegant action with a cast of three.

Their big top is really a small top,

enclosing a serene, white space with a central, black wooden stage. Hear every breath, every squeak of rope or twang of elastic; watch every bead of perspiration, every shimmy of muscle in this intimate arena of precision choreography.

A loose narrative charts the antagonistic interdependence of the trio of performers, trapeze artist Emmanuelle Jacqueline, strongman Hyacinth Reich and clown Jean-Paul Lefeuve. This is an exercise in human geometry, physical and emotional: a love triangle within a circle. They court each other with sensual displays of skills, toy with acts of mutual sabotage, but know they are bound by an inescapable

CIRCUS
QUE-CIR-QUE
HIGHBURY FIELDS
LONDON

inter-reliance as they use the others' bodies as support, weight and counterweight to achieve perfect balance.

Lefeuve, in snug white Y-fronts, is shaven-headed, with an expression like old man Steptoe's. A somewhat demonic incubus, he scuttles up and down the central tent pole, hanging upside down like a fruit-bat or swinging like an orang-utan just out of the strongman's reach. Foxy Jacqueline teases her suitors with

sinuous acrobatics, wriggling inside a bodysuit cut to reveal perhaps the sexiest back in show business.

Prancing laughily on point shoes, she becomes the circus pony, flaming hair tufted into perky feral ears. Then, skimming the floor, she whistles round on the low-flying trapeze, performing all the gymnastics you can't usually appreciate when they are 60ft over your head. Snatches of sleazy jazz from Miles Davis wind round croaky samples of Tom Waits; percussive coughing, drums, ice-crisp Gaelic chanting, mix with flickers of live serenades from Reich and Jacqueline.

Lefeuve circles the stage on a white bike, with no pedals or brakes,

aimed at an audience member near you, propelling the bike by swimming the air with his arms. A minute later, he's juddering down the tent-pole like a toy woodpecker down a stick.

Finally (and now we know why he's been saving himself), Reich spins in on a giant black hamster wheel. Like the man in Leonardo's anatomical diagram, the goateed strongman tumbles the wheel through 360 degrees, before wrenching it from a vertical to a horizontal axis like a spun coin. Subtle, sensuous and highly skilful.

Highbury Fields, London N5, until 5 July. 0171-288 6700.

JUDITH PALMER



Que-Cir-Que: circus as an exercise in human geometry

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

BY DAVID MAMET

DIRECTION: PATRICK MARBER
DESIGN: WILLIAM DUDLEY, LIGHTING: RICK FISHER
SOUND: SIMON BAKER
(MR) LINAL HART, VINCENT MARZELLO
DIANA QUICK, COLIN STINTON
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So Terry Frost, Blue Moon (1967), 1998

More than moonshine A knight to remember

THEATRE

CYRANO DE BERGERAC
THE DUKE'S PROMENADE
WILLIAMSON PARK
LANCASTER

THE CHEERFULLY borne rigours of outdoor productions on the edge of Cumbria can frequently offer remarkable compensations. For example, towards the close of the Duke's new promenade production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, when the dying hero rises to address the moon - his emblem of love and his fulfilment - there is no need to entertain any conjecture, for a glance over the shoulder reveals the orb itself, drifting out of the clouds as though hidden from the stage manager's book.

Not even this company's ingenious technical crew can get things in phase every night (consult your diaries), but last Friday, just as I was fancying it might be warmer beside the Sea of Tranquility, here was a theatrical moment of matchless serendipity.

There are other rewards, the first being the play's key scene where Cyrano's dancing woe's his beloved Roxanne on behalf of the stammering Christian. Here we are grouped in a dell below Roxanne's balcony. Out of sight to her, Cyrano moves from ledge to ledge and bush to bush, his eventual vantage point nicely encapsulating the tension and precariousness of both his stratagem and his emotions.

The second special success is the battle scene, in which the sloping phys-

ical space can compensate for lack of numbers among the soldiery. Promenade productions are broad-brush affairs and certainly this. Ewan Marshall's first for the venue, does not lack swash and shout. But the fine complications of Rostand's characterisation explore exactly which identity Roxanne has fallen in love with - Christian's handsome figure, or disfigured Cyrano's intoxicating personality - and are delicately drawn.

As Cyrano, Nigel Betts is superb: gruff, masterly, eloquent and distinctly moving. Amy Worth, in her first professional year, is a characterful Roxanne and there is strong support from Marcello Walton as Christian and Roh Pickavance as De Guiche. Honourable mention is also due for Nicholas Camm's drunken Prologue in rhyming couplets advising us of the survival techniques for the evening. Highly recommended, even on moonless nights.

Until 4 July (01524 66645)

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

OPERA

FALSTAFF
GARSINGTON OPERA
GARSINGTON MANOR GARSINGTON

GARSINGTON TEN years on is Garsington triumphant. With a new seven-year licence, a comfortably re-seated, heated auditorium, and a clutch of nifty Haydn, Mozart and Strauss productions already in the bag, Leonard Ingrams has turned for his first Verdi staging to the flowering of late genius.

In *Falstaff*, four decades on from *La Traviata*, Verdi fuses Mozartian wit and invention with the leavened maturity of *Otello* to give us (thanks to Arrigo Boito's inspired pruning of Shakespeare) the most insightful of all his operas. A merit of Stephen Unwin's visually uneven but largely enjoyable production was the way key mood changes were captured: Ford's aghast horror at his rival's gloating admission to a rendezvous with his wife; Falstaff's triumphant discovery of Bardolph and rebuttal of Ford's last-act jibes ("Lo scortato chi è? - Who's the ass now?"); and the drenched fat knight's humiliated soliloquy ("Mondo ladro, Mondo rubaldo - Thieving, cheating world").

This last was the plum in Robert Poulton's accomplished showing as Falstaff. A youngish cavalier, brooding in the Garter Inn with knitted eyebrows, darting co-conspiratorial glances at the audience and peering horrified from soiled laundry as the icy Thames looms, this

was a witty, controlled performance, strong in the middle ranges if occasionally stretched elsewhere.

Garsington's Guildhall-based band, bumped up to 50 players, proved the evening's heroes. Verdi makes exquisite use of flutes (above all, the swelling trills as liquor revives Falstaff from his ducking); the warmth of the strings was palpable (scurrying for Alice, powerfully intense for Ford's "Am I dreaming? Or is it true?"); the Garsington fixed backdrop reflected the sound better than ever. Occasionally massed forces overbore the best of the women, Elizabeth Gale's beautifully sung Alice. Two female voice trios came over well; the men's quintet, by contrast, was more sharply focused than the women's foursomes.

The rest was a mixed bag, though Pamela Howard's modest set adjustments carved a convincing Windsor from the manor's gorgeous permanent stone backdrop.

Until 3 July (01865 361636)

RODERIC DUNNETT

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS ARE ON PAGES 21 & 22

Lost the plot, lost her way

Paula Rego's strength is her storytelling. If that disappears, Tom Lubbock finds there's not much left to appreciate

Artists who have a show at the Dulwich Picture Gallery get a rare honour – their names appear on road signs. As you currently make the approach through SE21, you pass several of those SAC pointers – the sort that usually direct traffic to race meetings or pop festivals – bearing the words "Paula Rego". The effect is impressive. The gallery does this because it thinks no one knows where it is, but it always looks like huge coach parties are expected. Who knows? The name of Paula Rego might even draw them in.

I'm going to be rude about this show. However, it's worth recalling that just 10 years ago the Serpentine Gallery put on the Rego exhibition, launching her remarkable, late career. It was a startling breakthrough – the artist was already 50. What's more, the paintings that made such a stir did so by utterly disregarding one of the most unbreakable protocols of modern art – the ban of the "anecdotal". They told stories, and believed them.

True, a revival of figurative and narrative painting was widely touted in the 1980s. No one, though, was on the look-out for anything so wholehearted. These scenes of family sex dramas took their tales seriously. It wasn't a question of interesting imagery – the viewer was asked to identify directly with Rego's characters, imagine their lives and feelings, as if they were people in a novel. That was how the pictures worked. Old-fashioned, and perhaps even naïve, but it is evidently one of the ways pictures can work, and it was done with irresistible conviction.

Story is Rego's forte. Each new show has told a new one, presenting a new cast of characters. In the last few years, for instance, we've seen *The Dog Woman* and *The Osprey* – both convincing developments of Rego's basic plot: an ambivalent one of female survival, cunning, secrets, resistance and revenge, all qualified by a deep emotional investment in subjection and victimhood. Her fables are always woman-centred, but I've never understood why she's called a feminist artist. Men may appear in her pictures as passive toys, but there is always an offstage context of invincible male power. Liberation and equality aren't her business at all.

The 16 large pastel compositions showing in Dulwich are based on a

book, *The Sin of Father Amaro*, by Eça de Queiroz – a 19th century Portuguese novel which, probably like many viewers, I haven't read. But then Rego's pictures are not literal illustrations. So it is hard to tell whether knowledge of the text would enrich or encumber them. Anyway, visitors get a printed précis of a woman seduced by her priest-confessor, and it's a world of passion, guilt, sacrifice and gender segregation – in keeping with Rego's world as we know it.

Except where are the stories? *The Ambassador of Jesus* is the only image in this set with one of Rego's distinctively charged actions. A priest sits facing a woman, one hand held out with holy fervour, clutching her head in benediction; the other, as if this too were part of a ritual, clutches her thigh. His eyes are raised to heaven; she

doesn't look quite sure. It's not an original scenario, but it whets the appetite for more.

In vain. None of the other Father Amaro pictures have this level of drama. Rather, there's a great deal of sitting and lying around, with sometimes just a hint of some gesture or expression, but nothing telling, and a scattering of symbolic props – dead chicken, dolls, miniature pig – to make up for the lack of action. This is artistically risky. Without the one thing Rego's very good at, you're likely to notice the various things she's not good at.

These pictures do little to disguise the way they're figure compositions set up in a studio – in fact, they deliberately stress this. They don't show period scenes, but models enacting period scenes, half-dressing up in costumes or in modern dress, and with modern furniture. There's the odd alienation effect, too: in *The Company of Women*, a scene from Amaro's childhood, he's played by the same man who plays him as an adult. I don't think this studio charade is such a great idea in itself. It can only further weaken narrative interest. Worse, it is exposing. Stur-

dio-bound life work is not Rego's forte, and the competition (to give it a name, Lucien Freud) is stiff.

Those striking images Rego was making 10 years ago – the girl polishing the father's boot, say – were, I guess, mainly from imagination. The figures were cartoonish, but they had psychological vim. Later, she began to work from live models, probably to make things feel more grown up, less whimsical. And in the 1994 *Dog Woman* series, it was crucial. You needed to feel it was an actual woman living this dog's life – a made-up body wouldn't have done – and maybe just because a strange bodily life was the central subject of the story, Rego's drawing-in of those images was both physically and psychologically true.

But here, her anatomies are just like anyone's variably wonky life drawings. "Mistakes", as such, may not matter (though there are some eye-catching clumsy ones), but the general loss of force or particularity of gesture does, for that is her essential genius. It snaps in just occasionally – in the intently kneeling figure in a painting called *The Rest of the Flight into Egypt*. Elsewhere, you feel its absence keenly. For as straight depictions of flesh and bone, or arrangements of bodies and furniture, these images have very little in their favour.

No one ever went to a Rego picture for the rendering of textures and it's unfortunate that clothes and materials make so much of the going-on in these pictures, at least in terms of picture area filled, promising a sensuous drama of black silk, white lace, carpets and bedding that never materialises. In *Looking Out*, a woman gazes out of a window, the swirl of drapery around her hefty bottom being (as it ought to be) one of the main pictorial points. But – to put it mildly – to show this picture in a gallery which has Van Dyck's in the room next door is optimistic. The colours are pretty dull, too.

To put it less mildly, about a third of these pictures simply shouldn't have been exhibited at all, and without Rego's good name, I can't imagine they would have been. The rest distantly remind you of what Rego has done so much more powerfully before. Something has gone very badly wrong here. I hope it is nothing more serious than a total lack of interest in the project in hand. But don't rush for a seat on the coach.

Dulwich Picture Gallery, London SE21 (0181-693 8000), until 26 July



Paula Rego's 'The Company of Women': a period scene re-enacted by Rego's models

About a third of these pictures simply shouldn't have been exhibited at all

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO BUYING AFFORDABLE MODERN ART



THE WORK of some sculptors has an unmistakable individuality; who cannot tell a Moore or a Giacometti at first glance? The small-scale sculptures of Emma Woffenden have their own powerful identity.

They are not chipped from stone or cast in bronze; they are blown glass. Glass is the new Brit-art. It is gaining an international reputation. And so is 35-year-old Woffenden. She was among three emerging British glass artists cited by Dan Klein, professor of glass at Sunderland University and Britain's leading glass aficionado, when he lectured in Japan this year. The others were Galia Amsel and Colin Rennie.

Woffenden's glass does resemble the work of Henry Moore. Like Moore's work, and the tribal art that was one of its influences, it distils the anatomical features of men and beasts – lungs, abdomen, head, claws, genitals – into their basic, near-abstract shapes.

Distils is the word, for the glass is also reminiscent of laboratory apparatus – bell jars, tubes and retorts. One of her sculptures is titled *Retort*; it is a bulbous head – or perhaps a thorax, or even a phallus – dropping on two legs. Another is *Breath*, a simplified lung inside a frosted bell jar. It makes you want to gasp. This is an effect peculiar to glass blown into a mould. It seems to be still expanding, like an embryonic organism, obeying strictly geometric laws, even though it is cold and lifeless. Woffenden does not use colour; her work is pure form.

Professor Klein says of her: "Her sense of form is her greatest strength. Hidden within her work is an innate understanding of the human anatomy."

Woffenden, a Royal College of Art ceramics and glass graduate, says: "I am fascinated by things not yet fully formed, pre-birth things; always the beginnings, primordial things, the early essence of things."

She is one of the only two glass artists at the newly launched Barrett Marsden Gallery in London, which has controversially signed up artists – mostly ceramists – on London-wide exclusive contracts.

She is showing until 12 August in the group exhibition "Embodiment" at the Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland, as part of Sunderland University's Glass season to celebrate the opening of the £16m National Glass Centre there.

Prices: at the Barrett Marsden Gallery, Woffenden's cast-glass 'Crib', 13cm high, is £1,490. 'Bud', slumped glass (slumped, when hot and floppy, into an open mould), 23cm high, is £3,000. 'Apparatus', blown glass 17.5cm high, one of an edition of 12, is £460.

The flight of the Outsiders

Britain's only permanent public collection of Outsider art has left the country for lack of support. By Oliver Bennett

A VALUABLE collection of Outsider art has been lost to Britain. The collection, which has been housed in Lambeth since 1981, has finally proved too much of a burden to its curator, Monika Kinley. Although attempts were made to find a home in this country for the 750 works, the archive has now moved to Dublin.

Outsider art as a distinct genre began to gain public recognition in the late Seventies. In 1979, the Hayward Gallery hosted an exhibition called "Outsiders". Curated by the writer, artist and gallerist Victor Musgrave, it introduced what he called an "art without precedent" – pictures and sculptures by people with no formal art training, many living on society's margins, some driven to make art by psychic forces, some mentally ill and reclusive. If the works shared a common quality it was compulsion – one sensed that they were made made by people who simply had to create.

"The critics couldn't stand it," recalls Kinley, who was Musgrave's partner and collaborator. "They condemned it as being the work of mad people." But the show not only packed in the public, it went on to provide the core of Kinley and Musgrave's Outsider Collection and Archive, kept at their home in south London and available to view by appointment. A small trickle of devotees grew into a stream of international visitors.

Musgrave died in 1984, and late last year Kinley decided to wind up the collection. "People were ringing the bell without appointments," she says, "and I thought, Bloody hell, here I am, an education service, forever photocopying things from our library and getting no support. The only way is to house the collection elsewhere." A venue in Spitalfields market fell through, and it was even apparently discussed that the collection might find a home in the Banksia Tate. Nothing quite materialised.

And so the archive has gone to the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin, where it is has a two-year tenure. While Kinley emphasises that the Irish museum is an excellent choice – she is impressed with its inquisitive director, Declan McGonagle – the collection will almost certainly receive less traffic than if it were in a UK museum, and the question remains of where it will go when its tenure expires.

"Personally I'm very sad," says John Maizels of *Raw Vision* magazine, a journal devoted to Outsider art. "It is a British collection and people have given and sold to it for that reason. Also Britain is one of the few countries in the western world without a museum of



Henry Darger's 'Attack of the Tuskahorians' Outsider Archive / Musgrave Kinley

Outsider work – there is even one in Moscow now."

Indeed, there is now a kind of established Outsider canon, which includes such figures as the London artist Madge Gill, who painted under the spell of a spirit; Scottie Wilson, whose ceramic work was collected by Picasso; and the spookily beautiful child paintings of US-born Henry Darger. Maizels says that Outsider has become an "umbrella concept" with shifting meaning, but one can cite

certain tendencies – obsessive detailing, non-centralised picture planes, multiple perspectives, a hallucinogenic sense of pattern, and the use of "naïve" materials – felt tip, biro, found wood, etc.

Yet Kinley hopes that people avoid the presumption that Outsiders are by necessity mentally unstable. There are ill Outsiders but, as she says, "Often when they go a bit bananas their work is no good." Another tricky issue is that

colourful biographical detail often leads Outsiders to be treated as crazy exotics rather than genuine artists. "The trouble is that their lives are very often fascinating," she admits, citing Dusan Kasmic, who made sculpture from food and wallpaper in a refugee camp. But the moral lesson of Outsider art is that we can be illuminated by society's misfits.

There are signs that Outsider art is becoming the next big thing. Since 1993, there has been an annual Outsider Art Fair in New York, and a growing gallery network. It may even be a little bit trendy. "They have to have a Ramirez and a Darger," sighs Kinley, "just like they used to have to have a Stella and a Pollock." But its popularity suggests a deeper shift, in that it attracts those who are disillusioned with contemporary "gallery" art. "The work is popular, cheap and immediate," says John Maizels. "You don't have to have a big rationale of theoretical knowledge to appreciate it. It goes straight to the emotions."

Evidence of the Outsider boom can be seen in new museums in Baltimore – funded by various private benefactors including Anita Roddick – and in Holland and Germany. And Jarvis Cocker of Pulp is cur-

rently making a documentary on visionary environments, an architectural sub-set of Outsider work, following his conversion to the Outsider cause at St Martin's art school.

Kinley has concerns about this interest. "It is fine as long as the artists don't get spilt by it," she says. "But it's not unusual for them to lose their fire, and many of them are fragile people." She also adds that collectors have to remain vigilant to quality: "Most Outsiders work all the time, and you have to plough through masses of work to find the best stuff."

After the opening show in Dublin, McGonagle intends to mix Outsider work with his exhibitions programme, which should be interesting, particularly as Maizels says that Outsider work sits anxiously in established art collections, not quite fitting in – just like the artists themselves. "There is good Outsider work in the art museum of Chicago and the Berne Kunstmuseum, but they don't show much of it," he says. "In a strange way it works against the gallery art. Indeed, it is a fantastic antidote to the cynicism and careerism of much contemporary art." Which is ultimately why Kinley longs for a dedicated museum, probably funded by private benefactors. And in the glossy, flippery of Brit-art, we may well need it more than ever.

Art Unsolved continues to 14 October at Dublin MoMA

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HEALTH

VITAL
SIGNS

BY JEREMY LAURANCE



A MILLION children a year are injured in accidents outside the home, but are consistently misinformed about the biggest risks. A survey by the Child Accident Prevention Trust found twice as many children feared an attack from a stranger as were worried about being hit by a car while crossing the road. In 1996 10 children were murdered by a stranger in England and Wales, while 270 were killed and 45,000 injured while crossing the road. Road accidents are the biggest cause of accidental death in children under 15; boys are twice as likely to be injured as girls.

PEOPLE WHO have two or more migraine attacks a month, or less frequent but severe or prolonged attacks, may consider taking preventive treatment, according to the *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin*. Preventive drugs include beta-blockers such as propranolol and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories such as aspirin and ibuprofen.

WORRIES ABOUT tight underpants affecting fertility appear to be unfounded. In a US study, 21 men wore biker-style polyester underwear for a year. Tests showed the temperature in the area rose by only one degree - not enough to cause damage to sperm.

HORMONE REPLACEMENT therapy reduces bone loss and the risk of hip fractures. But does the protection last once HRT stops? A study by researchers in Sweden suggests only women currently taking HRT or who have done so within the last five years have the protection. The study, published in the *British Medical Journal*, also suggests it is never too late to start. Even women who began taking HRT several years after the menopause reaped the benefit.



Trafalgar Square could be bad for your health. Pneumonia is a side-effect of chlamydia, a disease contracted by contact with pigeons

Brian Harris

Why pigeons need a health warning

Richard Irons got pneumonia. He was horrified when he discovered the source. By Roger Dobson

RICHARD IRONS, a family doctor, couldn't understand why he was suddenly feeling ill. Though usually healthy, Dr Irons felt breathless and developed a cough, at which point he went to see his own GP.

"The doctor sent me off for an X-ray which confirmed I had developed pneumonia," he says. As if this weren't bad enough, the real shock came with the results of a blood analysis which showed what was responsible for his ill health: pigeons.

"I have no connection with birds of any kind, apart from looking at them in the garden and being aware of pigeons in the city centre near the surgery. It was and still is an absolute mystery to me," he says.

Virologists had found that Dr Irons, who works in Cambridge, had fallen victim to a chlamydia infection, probably acquired from pigeons, making him one of an increasing number of victims of diseases caught from wild birds.

The whole issue of infections being passed from birds to humans is now to be investigated by a team of academics following an initiative by biologists at the University of Wales, Cardiff. Some estimates suggest that cases in Britain have doubled in the last five years as a result of an expanding urban bird population. Up to half the individuals of some species may be carriers of infection.

It is thought that even these figures may mask the real size of the problem. Many cases go undiagnosed because the symptoms are not severe, and because they are not given the blood tests that would confirm the presence of the disease. Instead, they are often treated for non-specific viral infections.

"There is poor public awareness about the risks, and we need people to be more vigilant," says Dr Tim Wreghitt, consultant virologist at the Public Health Service Laboratories,

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, who is an international expert on chlamydia infections.

Chlamydia psittaci, considered to be the most important of the family of infections, causes a respiratory infection in humans which in extreme cases can be fatal. One 60-year-old woman died of an infection she acquired from a dead pigeon which her cat had brought in. It's thought that she had probably breathed in contaminated dust from the carcass.

"The symptoms vary from the very mild to fatal pneumonia. Sometimes it can cause a neurological condition, sometimes a kind of paralysis, sometimes temporal arthritis with severe headaches. Many cases never get diagnosed because no one thinks of it. The crucial message is that if people have contact with birds and they get a respiratory infection they must tell their GP," says Dr Wreghitt.

The irony for those who suffer needlessly is that when the infection is diagnosed, by a blood sample, it is easily dealt with by antibiotics. Like many people who become infected, Dr Irons had no idea that birds had caused his ill-health.

"I have no recollection of any incident involving birds at all, but obviously I must have breathed something in at some time. It was very unpleasant and I was quite ill for about four weeks. I can't say I take any precautions now because it is impossible to make any changes to protect against something like this. It could happen at any time to anyone."

The infection is carried by birds in their guts and once they have it, they never lose it, though they are not necessarily ill themselves. It is usually passed on to humans when the contaminated and dried faeces are breathed in as dust. Unlike most bugs, the infective agent can

exist for a long time in dried debris and simply breathing it in can cause an infection.

Only the slightest of contact is needed and patients have been known to become ill after coming into contact with a bird's nest while painting the house or after clearing an old attic. One fireman contracted a serious infection while searching a derelict house after there had been a fire next door.

Research by microbiologists in Australia has found that even cutting the lawn can throw up sufficient infected dust to cause the disease. People who feed pigeons in public places are also a group at risk.

The increase in cases is blamed on a growing urban bird population, thought to be a consequence of the greater availability of food in towns and cities.

"People feed more birds now, and over the last 20 to 30 years there has been an enormous spread of fast-

food outlets whose customers often don't eat all their food, and throw it on the ground.

"There is also more litter and spillage about now because restaurants put their waste in black polythene sacks, which are easily broken, letting the birds get at the food," says Professor Chris Feare, who runs WildWings, a bird management consultancy.

There is a theory, too, that recent warm winters have allowed more diseased birds to survive, increasing the likelihood of contact with human beings, and of infection being passed.

Some believe that the solution lies in reducing urban bird populations by persuading people not to feed them. The tactic has worked in Basle, in Switzerland, but the chances of success of such a policy in Britain, one of the few countries where people buy food for wild birds, are thought to be slim.

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Please call 0800 800 150. PAYPHONE OWNERS SHOULD CALL FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION.Is it the building that's
sick, or the people in it?

The reality of 'sick building syndrome' is still being denied. By Nicole Veash

IT WAS a London basement. The walls, covered in a glutinous coat of off-white, were lit by a low-energy light bulb, giving the sickly, warm hue of a provincial massage parlour.

Kate agreed with her colleagues that their small publishing office made them feel sick. "You can't breathe," she said. "All the windows have been painted shut and we've got this ridiculous air-conditioning system always on the blink."

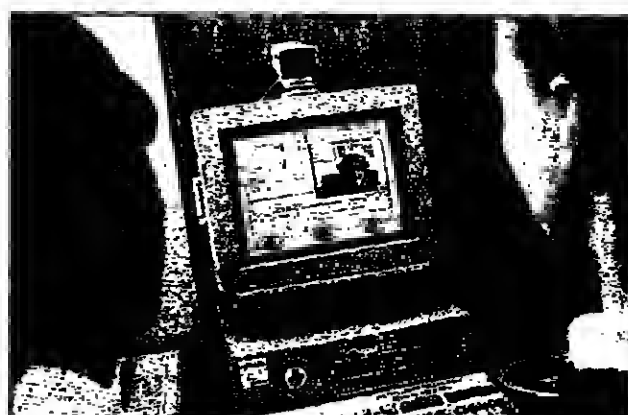
On complaining to their management, the employees were told that there simply wasn't the budget to give the office a decorative overhaul, let alone move to new premises.

"One of them told me to get a plant," says Kate, "but it would take a lot more than a mangy rubber thing battling to survive, to do anything for us."

Despite the strength of her feelings, Kate didn't want her full name used in an article about Sick Building Syndrome (SBS). "They might think I'm a trouble-maker," she said.

Though SBS was recognised as an official disease by the World Health Organisation in 1988, some still dispute its legitimacy. Like ME and repetitive stress injury, SBS is regarded by some as a convenient prop for malingerers.

Academics from two institutions have produced research that implies that SBS is a myth. Professor Phil Jones, of Cardiff



How many workers are prey to sick building syndrome?

University, says that workers in boring jobs are most likely to believe that they are sufferers.

"We found there are areas of a building where lots of people complain. Their problems may be caused by physical conditions... But generally it is because they don't like their job."

Adding to the debate, Dr Alex Marmot, an architect, has said: "I wouldn't use the term 'sick building' at all. There are sick organisations and poor management and a lot of people who have difficult lives - that is what we are seeing here."

However, both are, by extension, saying that office workers in particular are finding their lives blighted by work.

In the early Eighties when workers began to register a catalogue of symptoms -

headaches, dizziness, nausea, fatigue, visual disturbance, difficulty concentrating, impaired memory, respiratory problems, catarrhal deafness, tinnitus, skin conditions - the medical profession was baffled.

Jack Rostron, of Liverpool's John Moores University, author of *Sick Building Syndrome* says: "It has taken between 20 and 30 years for a disease of this sort to be recognised, largely because there are vested interests... and there is still a machismo element to British management. Businesses are going to have to wake up... Significant sums have already been paid in litigation in the US, so British employers should expect similar court actions."

The US Environment Protection Agency's study said

that up to 5,000 cancers a year may be caused by SBS, contributing towards a \$600m annual bill for sick leave, medical costs and lost production.

Dingy offices such as Kate's workplace are often seen as the worst offenders, but the real culprits are offices built later. When the oil crisis of the Seventies led to a rise in energy costs, developers planned the next decade's buildings with energy conservation in mind. Previous standards for ventilation and air conditioning were reduced. Sealed offices were built: the all-time offender and monument to the booming Eighties is, of course, Canary Wharf. The vogue for open-plan offices led to photocopiers and printing machines, which give off toxic gases and particles, being placed among workers.

Unsurprisingly, Scandinavia and The Netherlands have taken a lead in producing people-friendly workplaces. Employees are involved in the design - and ask for windows that open and control over heating, lighting and ventilation. "People are fed up with working in a bad environment," says Jack Rostron. "I think we will definitely see litigation when people take their employees to court after suffering from SBS."

'Sick Building Syndrome' by Jack Rostron (Routledge, £27.50)

OFFICE
HEALTH TIPS

- 1 Plants are not just a way of pleasing the eye. Bill Wolverton, formerly of Nasa, found that some plants - azalesas, rubber plants, poinsettias, lilies - take toxins from the air.
- 2 If you can't open the windows, try installing a small electric fan near your desk. Any air movement is a positive way to combat SBS.
- 3 If you are unlucky enough to have a photocopier, fax or printer nearby, ask for it to be moved to a well ventilated room.
- 4 Ensure that you do not work near large bundles of paper. They give off dust that can prompt allergic reactions.
- 5 Take regular breaks; and try to get out at lunchtime. Check the glare on your VDU monitor. Bring problems to your manager's attention. If your bosses stall, consider changing jobs.

The serial killer still among us

The good news: doctors are learning how to beat testicular cancer. The bad news: there is more of it around than ever before. By Peter Baker

Just 25 years ago, most men diagnosed with testicular cancer could expect to die. But now even tumours the size of grapefruit can disappear in 21 days, and patients doped with morphine can be taken off all painkillers and walk out of hospital within three days. Testicular cancer has proved to be exquisitely sensitive to new drug treatments, leading to a cure rate that already exceeds 95 per cent and continues to improve.

But there is a downside. The number of cases has doubled in the last 20 years - there are now almost 1,500 a year - and it has become the most common cancer among men aged 24-35.

Worryingly, most men also remain ignorant of the disease: one-third say they know "nothing at all" about it and less than one-fifth claim to know "a fair amount" or "a great deal", according to a recent Mori poll.

These problems, together with rising rates of prostate cancer (expected to become the most common cancer within the next 20 years), have led to a recent surge of interest in male cancers. This month, the Institute of Cancer Research launched a male cancer awareness month to focus attention on testicular and prostate cancers as well as to raise funds for a new research centre dedicated to male cancer.

Much of the research is focused on pinning down the causes. There are no obvious culprits, such as smoking or a high-fat diet, but there is a clear genetic predisposition; having a father or brother with the disease significantly increases the risk. (Some estimates suggest that up to one-third of all testicular cancers are caused by inheriting defective genes.) The Institute of Cancer Research, which is currently studying 100 affected families, believes identifying the relevant gene could not only help men at particular risk, but also provide insights into the genetic origins of many other cancers.

Discovering the genes that make

testicular cancer peculiarly easy to treat could be especially significant. "Testis cancer is a tumour of the sperm cell, a cell that has protective mechanisms to make sure no genetic abnormality gets through to the next generation," explains Tim Oliver, professor of medical oncology at the Royal Hospitals Trust, London. Since chemotherapy appears to work by triggering existing self-destruct mechanisms in the sperm cell, finding a means

TESTICULAR CANCER

The symptoms

- Lump or swelling in either testicle
- Feeling of heaviness in the scrotum
- Dull ache in abdomen or groin
- Sudden collection of fluid in the scrotum
- Enlargement or tenderness of the breasts

of transferring the genes containing these mechanisms to other cancers might make them equally sensitive to chemotherapy and boost cure rates.

Men who have had an undescended testicle are much more likely to develop testicular cancer - the risk is one in 80, compared to an average risk of about one in 400.

But the failure of the testes to descend is not the real source of the problem; the most plausible theory is that undescended testes, testicular cancer and even the recently observed fall in sperm counts share a common cause: pollution of the environment.

It is a pregnant woman's exposure to pollutants that mimic the effects of oestrogen (including PCBs, dioxins and gases emitted by car exhausts) that could be damaging key testicular cells in a developing male foetus.

There's a lower incidence of

testis cancer among men taking regular exercise and an increased risk in those with a sedentary lifestyle, suggesting that heat in the testis is an emerging co-factor," adds Professor Oliver.

With the average person now watching over 26 hours of television a week, compared with 13 hours in the Sixties, the nation's long-term decline in physical activity could be producing side-effects beyond steadily increasing obesity levels.

Currently, the standard treatment for testicular cancer is removal of the affected testicle. In fact, excision of the testicle for biopsy is considered essential for a definitive diagnosis. This causes particular problems for men who have already lost one testicle, perhaps as the result of an accident.

Professor Oliver is investigating the use of a new semen test to detect cancer cells; if cancer is present, chemotherapy is then used as the sole treatment. "We're going very cautiously with this approach since it leaves sperm cells behind and risks another tumour," says Professor Oliver. "I want to be certain men are cancer free for 5-10 years before this treatment is used more widely."

Despite recent advances, it remains essential for men to see their doctor as soon as they become aware of a problem.

"Young men expect to be in good health and some believe an abnormality in the testes will settle down on its own," says Alan Horwich, professor of radiology at the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden Hospital, London.

"But the longer testicular cancer is left, the more likely it is to grow and spread around the body." Delay continues to be the main factor in the 130 deaths a year still caused by this disease.

For an information leaflet about testicular cancer, send an A5 SAE to Everyman, The Institute of Cancer Research, 17a Onslow Gardens, London SW73AL.



Colin Osborne (above) is a 35-year-old a lithographer who was diagnosed with testicular cancer.

CASE STUDY

I was leaning over a bench at work and as it pressed on my groin, I felt a pain in one of my testicles. I ignored it for a couple of days and then the same thing happened again. When I felt around, I found a hard, pea-sized lump on my left testicle.

the doctor was sitting that it was bad news. He told me I had cancer and I went into shock. That was probably the worst moment of my life.

"The testicle was removed a couple of days later and, although it was a major operation, I got over it fairly quickly. But then a blood test found high tumour marker levels and a CT scan found masses in my stomach. I was told I'd need a course of chemotherapy, but that I still had 97 per cent chance of surviving. After three or four courses of

chemotherapy, I went into remission but then my tumour markers started to rise again. Tumours were found in my pelvis, abdomen and lungs and I began to think I wasn't going to get through this. At one point, my chances of surviving were down to about 20 per cent. It was then that I was put on a new drug, Taxol, which hadn't been used for this particular cancer before.

But I still had to have a bone marrow transplant, following which I had a stroke and got diarrhoea like you'd never believe. I was in hospital for five weeks and was very weak. I could barely stand up, let alone walk. Finally, I had to have an operation to remove the lymph nodes in my stomach. "In all, my treatment lasted 18 months. I coped by trying not to take it too seriously. I don't know why my cancer was so severe - most men are more easily treated - but it's completely changed me. I value my life much more now, and there aren't enough hours in the day."

Are we putting too much pressure on our children?

LAST WEEK I wrote about the damage done to the mental health of children by educational pressures. This week I want to ask in whose interest is the suffering of the millions of young people currently doing their exams? Advanced capitalism, that's what it's all for.

It would be rash for any parent or teacher with the best interests of their children at heart to ignore the new emphasis on qualifications to obtain almost any job. Yet the real beneficiaries of the present system are employers, not the self-esteem and fulfilment of future employees.

If schoolchildren are forced to believe that their economic future and independence is wholly reliant on educational performance, it encourages subordination and conformity. Education becomes a process for stunting creativity and fostering mindless obedience to authority - useful traits in a workforce but not, surely, the ultimate goal for the system.

The getting of A-grade A-levels does not tell me that someone is able to think, only that they are able to please. Exams do not test knowledge

or scholarly intellect but the capacity to please the examiner. I formed this view from conducting IQ tests on children as part of their overall emotional assessment (when working as a clinical psychologist). IQ tests are a good predictor of academic achievement, and can also tell us a good deal about the psychology of exams.

In many cases it was the children who did well on the test who gave me the most cause for concern. In the verbal section there was a question along the lines of "You are playing with a ball when another child takes it away and refuses to return it. What would you do? The obvious and honest answer always seemed to me to be "thump the bastard if he or she is not bigger than me, until they give it back". But this answer scored nul points.

I found that the "clever" children would dart a piercing, inquisitive look at me when asked this. It looked as though they were thinking, "That's an odd one. I know what I would really do but something tells me that that is not what you have in mind." They would then put on a Goody-

Two-Shoes face and answer, "I'd go and tell the teacher."

These children were "bright" only in the sense that they were good at picking up what the examiner wanted. This kind of brightness is exactly what employers are looking for, but it is highly debatable whether fostering it above all else does the emotional and intellectual development of children much good and, interestingly, in the long term it is not at all in our national interest.

One of the most intractable truths facing developed nations is that they cannot possibly compete with the low wages paid in developing nations. Our future lies in high-tech, high-skill industries. Above all, the more inventive and creative we can be, the better our chances of sustaining our present affluence. If we create a nation of Yes people and banish the non-compliant to low-paid jobs or unemployment, our reputation for innovation will soon be at an end.

Anyone doubting this assertion needs only to look at Japan. The notoriously competitive, exam-obsessed Japanese system is

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH



OLIVER JAMES

Education becomes a process for stunting creativity and fostering mindless obedience

hideously effective in suppressing imagination and creativity. So effective, indeed, that a scientific charlatan was able to sell vast numbers of a book there claiming that the lack of creativity was due to a crucial bit of kit missing from the

Japanese brain. The obvious alternative explanation - that it was due to a destructive educational system - was barely mentioned.

I shall not labour the point that most great thinkers, inventors, leaders and so forth were famously useless at school. Winston Churchill, Van Gogh and so forth would have had the odds hugely stacked against them under the present system. While I do not remotely regard myself as comparable to such people, I can safely assert that I "would not be where I am today" (wherever that is) had I gone through the present education system.

My story is illustrative of how an average, somewhat delinquent, upper-middle-class achiever would be handicapped today.

The charitable view is that I was a late developer. I failed the entrance exam to my public school so badly at the age of 13 that I was extremely lucky to be given a second chance (which I took). Today, I would have been weeded out as a no-hoper at age 11 and not allowed to sit the exam for that school even the first time.

At public school I immediately slipped back into my old laggardly ways, and after scraping seven lousy O-levels, today I could have been ejected from the school as someone who might lower the overall A-level pass rates. In fact, I buckled down and worked like a maniac. Despite all this effort my A-levels were dismal (B, D, E).

A charitable housemaster let me stay on and take Oxbridge entrance, an exam that has since been abolished but which offered some opportunity for reasoned thought compared with the mindless recitation of A-levels. I did reasonably well and got into Cambridge.

As you wipe away the tears that have doubtless been forming while reading this moving tale of self-improvement, I would remind you that the equivalent person today would have been culled at the end of his first A-level year. None of my masters would have predicted me to get good A-levels at that stage, so I would not have been considered for Oxbridge.

Perhaps that would have been more meritocratic, but what is more

fair about a system that strongly discriminates against late developers? Above all, what is the point of all this hothousing?

If qualifications are king, it helps employers to select the subservient people most likely to obey them. Understandably enough, huge retailers want neat, clean, obedient folk and detailed reports on their academic and personal performance at school dating back to age five are useful in selecting them.

Allied to batteries of psychometric tests, many of which have no sound scientific basis as predictors of the best employees, the education system suits employers just fine as a way of finding the most productive labour.

But what does it do for the many of us who are not neat, clean and obedient? In the name of economic growth - misguided, as it happens, because original and deviant personalities are our best long-term hope in a global economy - it asphyxiates us with labels and makes access to fulfilling, productive paid employment increasingly unlikely.

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SICK NOTES

BY WILLIAM HARTSTON

INDIA: The state of Uttar Pradesh in India has declared trade in human organs illegal, following the arrest of three surgeons on charges of robbing poor patients of kidneys and selling them to rich clients. Shiva Kant Ojha, the minister for medical education, said that the unauthorised transplant of organs is now an offence punishable with prison terms from two to seven years. The going rate for a stolen kidney is reported to be between £4,000 and £6,000, including the operation.

LOS ANGELES: A mother is suing an anaesthetist for refusing to give her an epidural during childbirth because her insurance did not cover the costs. Mrs Chavez said the anaesthetist requested \$400 last summer while she was in labour with her fifth child. She said she offered a credit card, a cheque and a Western Union confirmation number for cash, and all were refused. "I think it was barbaric," she said. "At first, I thought they were joking."

WASHINGTON: A study at Rutgers University has confirmed the benefits of sex education. An experimental group comprised over 3,700 men and women all of whom had engaged in unprotected sex during the previous 90 days, and also satisfied at least one of the following criteria: sex with multiple and new partners; infection with a sexually transmitted disease; sex with a partner known to have multiple partners; sex with an injection drug user; or sex with an HIV patient. Those who were lectured on safe sex increased their condom use,

but those who were given instruction in small groups and rewarded with food, gifts and money showed a significantly greater increase.

GERMANY: Research at the University of Bonn has shown that garlic does not have any effect on blood cholesterol levels, exploding the myth that it helps to combat heart disease.

SCOTLAND: A survey conducted by Greater Glasgow Health Board has led to a collaboration between health authorities and travel agents to provide health packs for young Scots taking holidays in the Mediterranean. Of 160 youngsters, 91 per cent imbibed alcohol on holiday though only 69 per cent did so at home; 67 per cent used Ecstasy (63 per cent at home); and 50 per cent had sex (67 per cent at home). The researchers admitted surprise at the decline in sexual activity, but suggested that it could be related to the increased use of drugs and alcohol. The new travel kits will contain a condom, sunscreen, health protection advice - and a toothbrush.

IRAN: Hospitals in Iran were reported to be bracing themselves at the weekend to treat "overly excitable" fans for injuries sustained during the country's match with the United States in the World Cup. In November, three people were treated for heart attacks after Iran qualified for the finals by drawing with Australia, and many others suffered cuts, bruises and sprained ankles when they jumped in excitement.



Garlic has no effect on cholesterol levels

It had to happen.

Devotees of alternative therapy now have their own 'supermarket'

By Jerome Burne

ONE SIGN of a successful product is a wide selection of brands. We don't just have jeans, we have Versace jeans, Armani jeans, Levi's jeans, and the cognoscenti can tell them apart. A similar brand consciousness is just beginning to emerge in the specialised field of oriental medicine.

Say "oriental medicine" to most people and they will think acupuncture and Chinese herbs, which is rather like calling all cars Fords, or all trainers Nike.

"Actually, there is a rich variety of oriental medicines," says Mark Salmon, co-founder of a new centre dedicated to making these ancient systems rather more user-friendly.

"For instance, there's Ayurveda from India, Tibetan medicine, Chakra Mongolian massage, Kambo Japanese herbalism, Tui-na Chinese massage and Qi Gong."

Kailash, which opened a few months ago in newly trendy St John's Wood in north London, gathers all these exotic varieties under one elegant roof. If ever you've wanted to try oriental herbs or a different sort of massage but weren't sure where to begin, this is the place to start. Salmon's smart marketing ploy to make them accessible has been to create a health centre that looks like a trendy restaurant or a new shop. Costs vary depending on individual practitioners.

The initial consultation with one of the Western doctors costs £60, a herbal diagnosis £20, a massage £40 to £60. In some cases it may be possible to get treatment on the NHS, if you are referred by your doctor.

From the ironic post-modern glass porch stuck on to this yellow-painted Regency building, to the recessed ceiling lights, white walls and bare wood floorboards inside, the message is: "We're cool but competent." The mock Georgian gilt of a typical Harley Street waiting-room tends to look pompous and rather old-fashioned by comparison.

But how do you decide between Mongolian herbs, meditation and Shiatsu? You don't have to. Newcomers can book an appointment with Dr Rajendra Sharma, or his assistant, both Western-trained doctors with a very long experience of eastern medical traditions.

"I will, first of all, make a diagnosis to check that you don't have something that would be better treated with conventional medicine," says Sharma, looking reassuring and authoritative in a consultant's dark suit and tie.



Kailash offers oriental treatments from massage to acupuncture under one roof Andrew Burnham

"Conventional medicine is great for emergencies. With meningitis you need antibiotics fast; if you are in a car accident, you need an emergency ward. But for most other conditions, conventional medicine doesn't have a cure; it only treats symptoms. Oriental systems are much better at getting to the underlying cause," he claims.

Once you've been assessed, Sharma will recommend one of the 20 or so practitioners at the centre who he thinks may be right for you. If, after a few sessions, things don't seem to be working out, you can always change.

"What's unusual about Kailash," he says, "is that there is a lot of discussion between the different practitioners, so we can look at different aspects of a patient's problem."

Nichola Nicholls, who describes herself as a venture capitalist, was relieved to have Dr Sharma's guide-

ance. She had had a tumour removed from a breast and when she came round from the operation, the anaesthetist had told her it was vital she didn't feel a victim.

"He said I ultimately had to feel as though I was in charge," she says. "That, plus some studies at the Royal Marsden that shows that cancer patients who combine conventional therapy with complementary do better, was enough for me."

"I did the lot: hypnosis, biomagnetic resonance, homeopathy, antioxidant infusions, you name it, but when I arrived at Kailash I felt I was being directed and taken care of. The atmosphere was so calm and soothing and I felt really reassured, seeing Dr Sharma. Knowing he was properly medically trained, I felt that he wouldn't allow me to do anything that would cause any harm."

"He suggested trying meditation, to my great surprise, which turned out to be absolutely brilliant."

Shiatsu - massaging acupuncture points - is practised by Mark Salmon, whose energy brought the centre into being. He's also obviously the one responsible for the designer décor. He looks as though he could be on his way to the Groucho club to tie up a TV deal.

"I was in the media," he confesses, "but I discovered it wasn't for me, so I did a four-year course at the London Academy of Oriental Medicine. My father travelled a lot in Asia, so I've spent several years there and I've always dreamed of running a clinic that brought the very best of Eastern medicine to London."

He proudly reels off a list of the practitioners at Kailash, senior figures in their field but hardly what could be described as household names.



"We are linked with the Dalai Lama's centre in Dharamsala," says Salmon. "That is the only place that teaches the real Tibetan medicine. It's a system that is particularly good for conditions with a neurological or emotional basis, as they have a subtle understanding of the mind."

Like many of the oriental systems, Tibetan medicine can trace its roots back over 2,000 years and practitioners still use texts first composed in the eighth century - about the time of the Venerable Bede in this country. Health is thought of as coming from a balance between three humours in the body: rLung (air), mKhris-pa (fire) and Badkan (earth and water).

Should Dr Sharma consider the Tibetan approach is what you need, you'll first have your pulse checked. This is done in several oriental systems and it's a far more sophisticated procedure than the quick count familiar in the West. Under the fingers of skilled practitioner, the pulse becomes a subtle diagnostic tool, a sort of body sonar that can pick up the faint echoes of weaknesses and imbalances from all over the body.

Then your urine would be checked. This is a specialty of Tibetan medicine. You need to supply a fresh sample (no spicy foods, or sex the night before) which is then whipped up with a chopstick. One of the key indicators is the size of the bubbles. Large ones, for instance, known as "watching the yak's eyes" are a sign that something is out of balance with your rLung. This, it turns out, is something we Westerners are particularly susceptible to.

"The rLung person does not sleep much, takes meals at improper times, and has too much sex and lots of mental pressure," says Dr Tamdin Sither Bradley, Britain's only fully Tibetan-trained doctor, and a practitioner at the centre. "For someone like this I would prescribe food with heavy nutritional potency such as lamb, butter, molasses, alcohol, milk and soups, and advise them to stay with a good friend in dark, warm places where it is quiet, with beautiful scenery."

Oriental medicine isn't an easy option. "Western medicine offers you pills and surgery and generally doesn't demand you do much for yourself," says Salmon. "We start from the assumption that you are ill because something, somewhere, is out of balance, so you may have to make all sorts of changes. But once you do that, lots of other things clear up."

Kailash, Centre of Oriental Medicine, 7 Newcourt Street, London NW8 7AA (0171-722 3333). On Saturday 27 June is an open day with talks and the chance to have free consultations and cut-price treatments

Need advice on heart health?



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Only big business can save us now

Herbal medicine is responsible for putting 150 species of plants under threat. Or is it?

RATHER LIKE stories involving vicars and choirboys, a report last week about increased demand for herbal medicines threatening plant species with extinction had that extra frisson of hypocrisy. Here were all these morally superior herbalists, preaching holistic and natural healing and meanwhile killing off species faster than an Amazonian logging company.

Well not quite, but the report from Traffic, a division of the World Wide Fund for Nature, found that 150 European species were under threat, including arnica, yellow gentian and paeony. Inevitably, the real story is both more complex and more interesting. What did come as a surprise, even to people in the business, was that most of the 200 herbs we import from Europe are still gathered in the wild.

In eastern Europe, Spain and Turkey collecting herbs is still a traditional way to earn pin money. "Enough to get the children's shoes," as one expert put it. And that is really the heart of the problem. Herbal medicine is, literally in some cases, still a cottage industry. It involves collectors working for very low wages, with little or no supervision. Until recently there hasn't been the money available to upgrade the whole system.

The report recommends various changes, such as switching to commercial cultivation and finding substitutes for plants now at risk. But as far as the industry is concerned,

this is pushing at an open door. Many in the business can't wait to go high-tech. "There is a certain romance about herbs gathered in the wild," admits Celia Wright, manager of Higher Nature. "Sales people call it 'wild-crafted' but there is no evidence that they are superior; if anything, the opposite is true."

Already some firms, such as the German company Lichter Pharma, suppliers of the best-selling St John's wort, used to treat mild depression, have invested a large amount of money in growing their own strains. "The quantity of chemicals found in a species that grows wild can vary a great deal," explains Dick Middleton, a spokesman. "The type of soil, the climate, even when they are picked, can all make a difference. We are dedicated to producing standardised extracts of the plants for use in clinical trials, and also so the customers can be sure of what they are getting." Most of the tea tree and eucalyptus oils imported into this country from Australia come from trees grown on large plantations.

There's also agreement that replacing a plant that is at risk by another with similar properties, isn't usually a problem. "Manufacturers do tend to be a bit free with what they include in over-the-counter preparations," admits Alison Denham, of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists. "For instance, goldenseal, which is at risk, is widely used for hayfever, but it could easily be replaced



Virtually every part of the stinging nettle has a use

Paul Stewart

with various species of berberis that aren't endangered."

In fact, far from being an assault on herbalists, the Traffic report may well mark their coming of age. The medicinal herbs industry of the future has no place for ruddy-faced peasant women, filling their aprons with herbs in the fields and sorting them on the kitchen table. Instead, all the high-tech resources now devoted to flowers and vegetables, will be brought to bear on medicinal herbs:

greenhouses, breeding programmes, even genetic engineering.

"We are experimenting with growing plants for multiple uses," says Dr John Wilkinson, senior lecturer in phytochemistry at Middlesex University. "Take the stinging nettle. Traditionally only its leaves are used for a tonic, but the rest of the plant is valuable as well. The leaves are also a good source of chlorophyll dye, the seeds produce an oil and trials

show that the root may be good in treating prostate problems. Setting up commercial production of medicinal plants is expensive; this approach makes it much more cost effective." Dr Wilkinson is looking for commercial partners to fund the research.

This approach takes its inspiration from the seemingly endless proliferation of strains of garden plants such as roses. Dr Geoffrey Guy is a self-styled pharmaceutical entrepreneur

who hit headlines last week as the first person in this country to gain a licence to grow cannabis and run trials on it.

"All the efforts of rose-growers are concentrated on things such as colour and scent, but you could just as easily breed herbs for different potencies," he says. "In the case of cannabis, the strains around today have been bred to increase the amount of THC - the stuff that gets you high. But for many of the medical applications, what you need is a different alkaloid. I'm developing a strain that has much more of that substance."

Dr Guy's vision involves developing a wide variety of species of herbs, each tailored to different needs. "One might be better for a child, another for a pregnant woman, another for an old person, and so on." His approach also gets round one of the main stumbling-blocks to upgrading the business - the lack of patentability. "Obviously you can't patent a plant," says Dr Guy "but if a rose grower develops a blue rose, for instance, he'll have rights to it. In the same way you could license use of a particular strain of peppermint or passion-flower that you have developed."

As the herbal market becomes more valuable, gathering in the wild is certain to decline. Arnica will be saved and quality standardised. But will there still be enough money for the children's new shoes?

JEROME BURNES

MEDIA

هكذا من الأدل

Good news costs money. Bad news costs a fortune. Paul McCann works out the price of the kiss-and-sell

Bought and told: the other price war

At the *News of the World* there is a clothes rail. The clothes on the rail can best be described as skimpy and, if you are a regular reader, you have probably seen the same outfit more than once. These are the kiss-and-tell clothes.

When the *NoW* buys up the story of a woman who has slept with a celebrity, usually a footballer or a soap star, it keeps her hidden near Wapping then takes her for a photo shoot at the offices. She is told to choose an outfit from the clothes rail and is manoeuvred into a provocative pose.

The kiss-and-tell is the bread and butter of cheque-book journalism but it is no longer the most notorious tabloid technique.

Last week a Massachusetts judge went so far as to try specifically to ban Louise Woodward from selling her story to a newspaper. Woodward herself maintains at every opportunity that she will not be selling her story - despite the fact that her family took £40,000 from the *Daily Mail* in November for their story.

This comes just weeks after the two freed nurses returned from Saudi Arabia to pick up sums reported at between £65,000 and £120,000 from the *Mirror* and the *Express* and to headlines such as "Home to make a killing" from the *Sun*.

The buy-up, as it is known in the trade, is now as much the story as any story someone has to sell.

Such is the importance of the buy-up to the tabloid press that being able to negotiate a deal and wield a cheque book is now as much a journalistic skill as shorthand or spelling. On a day-to-day basis, tip fees and small amounts of money change hands for run-of-the-mill stories. Just last week someone made £10,000 from the *NoW* for a story about a FIFA official selling World Cup tickets.

But big stories such as the returning Saudi nurses or the nanny and her family are put into specialist hands. Every newspaper has an executive in charge of big buy-ups. At the *Daily Mail* it is executive editor Jon Stead, at the *NoW* it is managing editor Stuart Kuttner while the *Sun's* deputy editor, Rehkah Wade, has a formidable reputation for securing what is known in tabloid speak as the "Big Chat".

One tabloid buy-up expert says: "In a straight auction the *NoW* is difficult to beat. When the subject is purely in it for the money they will ask for sealed bids and the *NoW* has the deepest pockets."

The *NoW* also has the advantage of being able to spread the cost of a big buy-up by sharing its story, and costs, with the *Sun* and Sky Television. Sometimes even the *Times* and *Sunday Times* have been part of a

The amount paid for a story depends on a number of variables. A celebrity kiss-and-tell sells few extra papers unless it is a really big scandal. But the amount of money will go up if the teller is attractive - hence the *NoW* clothes rail - and will go into salacious detail about the celebrity's sexual performance. If the story makes only a page lead it will earn the teller between £5,000 and £15,000. For a double-page spread with good pictures the rate will rise to about £20,000.



News International-wide deal.

Mark Stephens, of lawyers Stephens Innocent, negotiates regularly for people trying to sell their story. He says: "News International are very good at getting in early before the subject is really a story."

News International got in early on the Fred West case and tried to buy up every member of the West Family. Some knew they would make more than £70,000 for their story and, before the trial even started, one became notorious in Gloucestershire for driving around the county in his brand new four-wheel drive.

If the subject comes to a newspaper with a so-called "sting" in mind - so that pictures can be taken or phones tapped while an affair is ongoing - the amount will rise to more than £50,000.

Lady Bienvenda Buck, who had an affair with an air marshal, made £100,000 from her initial story. But the big human interest story that dominates the broadsheets, television and radio is worth the most because people will switch papers to read the story from the participant's point of view.

Stephens estimates that Louise Woodward's story, if she wanted to

sell, could be worth £250,000 to £500,000. In the case of the Saudi Nurses the two were well-advised and secured 80 per cent of the syndication rights to their stories on top of their initial fees.

As well as the deal makers there are also specialist "babysitters" at each paper. Once you have paid five figures for your subject you have to keep her away from the rest of the press and you have to extract her often traumatic story. The press euphemistically refers to people speaking from a secret location or a safe house. In fact they are usually in a suite in an inexpensive hotel.

But the babysitter's role is often as important as the money. Journalists can spend months getting to know a potential buy-up subject.

This might explain why it was the *Mail's* showbusiness editor, Rebecca Hardy, and not a reporter based in America or Manchester, who last week had extensive pieces on how the family had stuck together and supported each other. Hardy explained that she had been getting to know the family for more than a year. During the trial the family was frequently accompanied by a *Mail* executive who was no-doubt protecting the paper's £40,000 investment.

Mark Stephens says: "The *Mail* is very good at the tragic tale that tugs the heart-strings of Middle England. They send flowers, they offer the subject copy approval, they promise Lynda Lee-Potter will do the interview. They emphasise that they are not the trashy press and that they don't stitch people up. In fact they do extract every drop of juice out of someone's story."

The *Mirror's* buy-ups have improved under Piers Morgan after having suffered years of losing out to the *Sun*. The paper is now more aggressive and is winning people - even if, in the case of the Saudi nurses, it bought up the one who is facing a criminal charge in the UK.

The *Express's* long years of under-resourcing showed in its inexperienced handling of the nurse it bought, Deborah Parry. While the *Mirror* whisked Lucille McLaughlin away from Heathrow in a helicopter, a phalanx of heavyset *Express* executives huddled Parry through a scrum of reporters shouting "Did you kill her, Debbie?"

The question rather underlined



The former Lady Bienvenda Buck was paid £100,000 for the story of her affair

LNS

the point that tabloid journalists are not always very nice people. It is for that reason that someone with a story to tell will turn to lawyers such as Mark Stephens or advisers such as Max Clifford, who takes 20 per cent of the payment.

A common double-cross by reporters is to go to a negotiation with a hidden tape recorder running. The subject is told they need to tell the story before a decision can be made on payment. The reporter leaves to check how high the price can go and never comes back. It's even better

if the subject can be persuaded to get out the family photo album and then make a cup of tea. A stolen photograph and story can appear for no cost. Even more common is cutting the amount of money to be paid once the story has been secured and the subject is tucked up in a hotel. The newspaper relies on the fact that the subject is usually in the eye of a media storm and their house is probably surrounded. The last thing they want to be is abandoned by the newspaper's minders and have to re-negotiate with another title. Yet

according to some reporters, getting a middleman involved will not necessarily insulate you from what is, quite simply, a seedy affair: one experienced tabloid reporter says: "For about a year I wondered why I was never winning any bids for people. Then I realised - everyone else offers the negotiator a bung. It's one way of guaranteeing you win."

So while a newspaper's timing, strategy, babysitters and experience all play a part in buy-ups, the only thing that really really counts, is what always counts: money.

ANALYSIS PAUL MCCANN

Good for advertising but bad for the economy?

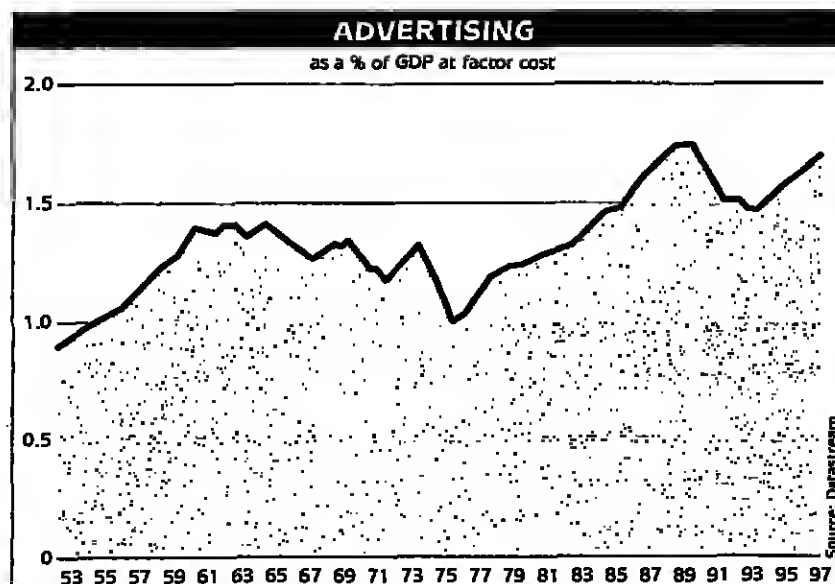
LOST AMONG the economic indicators that last week worried commentators - the rise in unemployment and the rise in wages - was a statistic that should give the Chancellor and all of the commercial media pause for thought.

The Advertising Association announced that in 1997 advertising expenditure hit £13.14 billion. It was the highest figure ever, thanks to inflation, and a rise of 9.3 per cent on the previous year. But most importantly, the figure at last matches the share of GDP taken by advertising in the last year before the last recession in 1989.

In those days of long advertising lunches and expensive Armani suits, advertising accounted for 1.96 per cent of GDE. Last year it reached 1.94 per cent.

The reason the Government should be paying close attention to this figure is that advertising has proved itself repeatedly to be a very responsive indicator of economic health.

After the boom year of 1989, advertising expenditure dropped like a stone for two years, losing all of the growth that had been built up over the Eighties consumer boom. The industry lost over £1 billion in expenditure in just one year, and by the end of 1992 was at the same share of GDP as in 1985. Growth did not pick up until 1993, making advertising one of the first true "green shoots" of recovery.



In the Seventies, advertising spending plummeted even faster after the slow-down caused by the rise in world oil prices in 1973. The only time it bucked the trend was in the early Eighties manufacturing recession. Advertising then kept growing because of a quantum leap in the number of brands and services available to the public as the consumer society truly kicked in for the first time.

But advertising's consistent ability to be an early indicator of economic slowdowns and upturns should make the Government study this year's figures closely.

There are structural and cultural reasons for advertising's qualification as an early indicator.

One is simply that finance directors frequently regard their marketing director's demands for money as a marginal expenditure - a variable cost that can be dealt with when actually making the product is paid for - it is frequently one of the last budgets of the year to be signed off.

Furthermore, the "product" that is advertising - the actual advert - can, if you want, be quick to produce. Newspapers' advertising agencies have been known to produce a TV advert in an afternoon when a big book serialisation or exclusive scoop has to be revealed.

So you do not have to order thousands of widgets from China months in advance

to up your ad spend. Equally, if you've committed no money to advertising other than getting some story boards done by your agency, the advertising is easy to pull at the last minute.

The media market in the UK - and media expenditure greatly overshadows outlay on the actual production of ads - is one of the most flexible in the world because of ITV's antiquated trading system. It is geared to allow advertisers to come on air at the last moment if they so wish, and so media spend is again something which companies do not have to plan years in advance.

Having such a strong daily newspaper market, where lead times for ads can be as short as a few hours, also means that a big chunk of advertising spend is very flexible. Between them, television and press display advertising account for £10.6 billion of the £13 billion total.

It is also in the nature of the advertising service industries to adapt to changes in marketing strategy - at least partly because marketing directors only stay in their roles for an average of 18 months. Advertising and marketing are of course obsessed with market research and so are highly responsive to changes in market demand.

What the Chancellor, and the rest of us in the media, must hope is that in 1998 the industry just keeps on growing.

RUMOURS emanating from the troubled *Observer* see the place dividing into camps, with deputy editor Jocelyn Targett and his patron, *Guardian* editor Alan Rusbridger, on one side, and the *Observer's* actual editor Will Hutton on the other. They are divided over a Targett-inspired redesign that would reduce news in the paper to one page while the rest is given over to fluffy features. Meanwhile, Mr Targett has upset his former bosses at Associated Newspapers and *Observer* colleagues with his feature about how much Sir David English loved him. Those who worked with English were surprised to see Targett describe how English called him "my young genius" and said they were both "natural-born editors". It's not quite how they remember the relationship.

ROBERT THIRKELL, the man responsible for the fly-on-the-wall documentary on Live TV, has the contract to do one on the Millennium Dome. He is in a quandary, however. Peter Mandelson is a very close friend. Does he make a dull programme where Mandy shows up occasionally in a statesmanlike way and makes the odd incisive comment about the Dome? Or does he do what he is best at, follow Mandy around constantly and stitch the Minister Without Portfolio up like a Janet Street-Porter? I know which will make the best documentary. What will be his last?

THEY SAY revenge is a dish best served cold, but Jonathan Miller, former business editor of the *European* managed to get his in while still piping hot. Since his days on *The Sunday Times*, Mr Miller has had something of a feud with former Tory minister Gerry Malone. When Mr Malone was appointed by his best friend Andrew Neil as editor of the *European*, Mr Miller knew his time was soon to be up. Less than two weeks ago he departed the company, purportedly for making a staff member cry. When an inebriated Mr

THE WORD ON THE STREET

Malone made unwanted sexual advances towards, and then slapped, his features editor, Nicola Davidson, (below) two weeks ago and the story made its way into the national press. It did not take a genius to work out who leaked the story. Especially if you were the one who took the call from Mr Miller.



MANY YEARS AGO the *Sun's* then editor Kelvin MacKenzie complained to the Press Council about this newspaper printing out in full a swear word used by cricketer Mike Gatting to describe an umpire. MacKenzie, no stranger to the word himself, was apoplectic at *The Independent's* frankness. The *Sun's* strange attitude to language has outlasted him. Last Friday on page nine, the paper quoted Linford Christie complaining that no-one ever asks about the size of Sally Gunnell's "tits". The word it seems is too strong for *Sun* readers, while the photographic representation of it, in the form of 23-year-old Shae - page-three girls' parents must know their daughters' profession when they christen them - was quite acceptable. It would take a semiotics professor to work out why one is more corrupting than the other.

FRESH FROM the triumph that was letting a lot of car-huggers criticise the green movement in her *Against Nature* series, Channel 4's science head Sarah Ramsden is famous for giving feminists a going over. The channel had to apologise to leading greens for misleading them when making *Against Nature*, so *Why Men Don't Iron?* should make scary viewing. Ms Ramsden is famous in her industry for saying you can't be a female producer and have children, so the programme's threat to "break the taboo on biological explanations" for the differences between the sexes is likely to look as if it's from the age of Harry Enfield's Mr Chumley-Warner.

YOU CAN tell advertising is an industry that takes itself too seriously. Agencies title themselves with long strings of surnames as if they are lawyers, and now the industry body is contemplating a kind of professional charge of "bringing the industry into disrepute". The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising would come down heavy on anyone criticising other agencies' work. This would make impossible the only bit of Campaign magazine worth reading - "Private View", where an adman gets to be bitchy about his peers. But the idea seems unworkable. The industry's reputation is that it is run by ponytailed egotists who use cocaine and get unpleasant right-wing governments elected for 15 years. There is not much to bring into disrepute.

ONCE the leader column of *The Times* was reserved for great matters of state. The Thunderer's editor could fulminate on weighty issues and the ruling class would know how right-minded people should think. But price cuts and middlebrow stories have scared off this class and last week the leader was no better than an in-house advertising site. Former *Times* editors would have been shocked to see the column stop so low as to plug an upcoming book serialisation.

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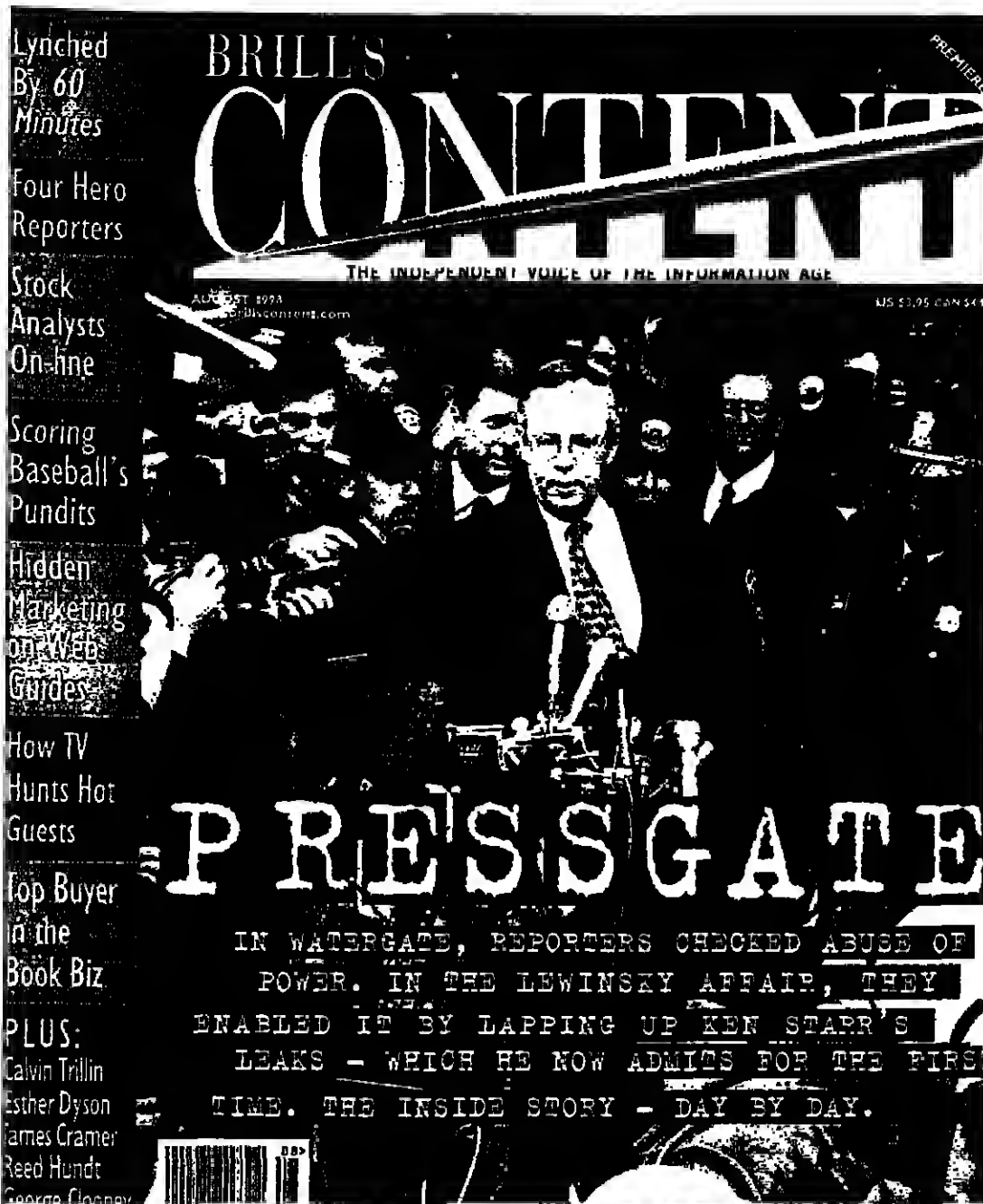
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The truth, the whole truth (and anything but the truth)



A magazine has been launched to expose the misdemeanours of the US media. It has its work cut out. By Louise McElvogue



Top left: Steven Brill, the creator of media watchdog magazine 'Brill's Content', above, whose 'Pressgate' article has sparked off a huge debate about the Monica Lewinsky affair

WHEN BILL Clinton waved a copy of the prototype for a new magazine, *Brill's Content*, at the White House Correspondents' Dinner earlier this year, warning the press corps of the dangers ahead, little did anyone know that the magazine's first issue, published last week, would have such an impact.

Even the magazine's creator and savvy marketer, Steven Brill, could not have dreamed of the exposure *Brill's Content* has received in the week since its launch, largely driven by his own article, "Pressgate", which included the first admissions from independent council Kenneth Starr that he had leaked information to the press about the Monica Lewinsky investigation.

To be sure, Brill's "Pressgate" exposé is a meticulous reconstruction of how the media followed a trail of leaks, counter-leaks and rumours as the Lewinsky story broke and it contained the scoop of Starr admitting working with the press. But Brill's real skill may have been the careful engineering of the story's release in dribbles, playing the media like a fiddle. An advance copy of the "Pressgate" article was given to the weekend *New York Times*, which resulted in a front page story about Starr admitting he leaked to the press. That story got Brill on most of the Sunday morning political talk shows and allowed him to visit the network morning shows early in the week.

A celebrity-heavy cocktail party launching the magazine last Monday kept the media spotlight on the title, but, ironically, it was Starr who did the most for *Content* when he responded to Brill's article mid-week just in time for the magazine's arrival on the news stands on Wednesday (March 17) with a 19-page letter which kept the story alive for rest of the week's news cycle.

Ken Auletta, media critic of the *New Yorker*, explained the spin control: "Brill wrote a solid piece but forgot that, this free publicity is a dream, to be on the front page of the *New York Times* and on every television network, then Starr writes that letter, he should thank Ken Starr every day."

While Brill protested on talk shows like CNN's *Larry King Live* that everyone was ignoring the real thrust of his article, which was how the media rushed to judgement on the Lewinsky story, it was difficult to feel sorry for him. No magazine launch since JFK Junior's *George*, launched three years ago, has received so much attention.

Not all of that attention has been good, however, and Brill was forced to admit he had made a major error

in not disclosing his past donations to the Democratic Party, which allowed critics to suggest his political bias as the reason the *Pressgate* article was pro-Clinton.

Brill, however, took the good and bad attention in his stride. The man who started the cable channel Court TV and the bible of the legal world, *The American Lawyer* magazine, was clearly enjoying the spotlight. Brill, who has a reputation as a demanding boss and a mentor for great journalists, was forced out of the company he created by partners Time Warner, TCI and NBC when they thwarted his attempt to buy Court TV and *The American Lawyer* publishing interests. Brill left with a bad taste in his mouth and a payout which was believed to be more than \$20 million (\$12.5 million) and set up Brill Media Ventures, the first product of which is *Brill's Content*.

There is certainly enough distrust of the media in the US to warrant some stringent examination. As the back page compendium of statistics in *Brill's Content* points out, only 1 in 14 Americans believes that jour-

nalists are more honest than most people.

There is also fertile ground. Just last week the *Boston Globe's* award-winning columnist, Patricia Smith, admitted fabricating quotes and people in some of her articles. In May, Stephen Glass - a writer for magazines such as *George*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New Republic* and *Harpers* - also got caught fabricating stories, sources and events. Other past media sins range from the rigging of trucks to make them explode by NBC's current affairs show, *Dateline*, or Time magazine's "darkening" of a mug shot of OJ Simpson to make him appear more sinister.

While the debut issue of *Brill's Content* is serious and hard-hitting, the question still remains whether it can attract a mainstream audience of 500,000 over five years, as Brill hopes (in comparison, the political magazine, *George*, is attracting around 400,000 readers after three years). Brill says the monthly's audience is the media consumer, not the media themselves, but there is some scepticism about

whether enough consumers will be interested in many of the topics.

Though a crowd of media heavyweights, such as former *Sunday Times* editor Harold Evans, CBS newsman Dan Rather and *60 Minutes* reporter Mike Wallace, along with Internet gossip Matt Drudge and actor George Clooney, packed out Manhattan's favourite power lunch venue, The Four Seasons Grill Room, for the magazine's launch last week (Monday 15 June), it is doubtful many of them have yet made it through to the end of the rather dense magazine. What was glaringly obvious from many of the media interviews over the "Pressgate" story was how few of the interviewers or commentators had read the full contents of the story, weighing in at 25,000 words.

Not everyone who did read the "Pressgate" story thought it was fair, and since the magazine began circulating amongst many of its subjects last week, the complaints have been piling up. Ken Starr's letter refuted much of Brill's article, calling it a "reckless and irresponsible at-



tack (which) borders on the libelous." Brill responded that Starr had not disputed any of his quotes and challenged Starr to release his phone records of discussions with reporters. He has also appointed an independent ombudsman to oversee all complaints from readers, and to be a watchdog on the magazine's practices.

Yet Brill's credibility has taken a few blows since he set himself up as the watchdog of the media, and it is easy to detect a sense of glee in the media scrutiny of his practices. Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* has run a "Brill's Content Watch".

In an earlier embarrassing incident, Brill engineered a deal with the NBC current affairs show *Dateline* to collaborate on television stories, but when the news broke in May, critics, and some of Brill's own staff, complained that the deal would make it difficult for *Brill's Content* to write fairly about *Dateline's* practices. Brill backed away from the deal and has admirably approached all of these slip-ups head-on with a mea culpa and a promise to do better.

While it is clear members of the media are paying attention to *Content*, the magazine's biggest test will be in building interest from the general public beyond its killer first issue, which gives some hint of what lies ahead. It contains a mixed bag, including features on how television bookers nail their guests; how fashion magazines fabricate their cosmetics credits and how teen magazines fabricate letters from readers. It also includes many positive pieces about the media, including a story on how the *New York Times* exposed a health care giant; how a reporter uncovered the financial truth about a celebrity investment club and a section which looks at unhygienic books which deserve further attention. While most pieces are well written, (except for a rambling rant from actor George Clooney about the blending of news and entertainment) many of the articles may be too detailed and too "inside" for a mass audience.

As the *New Yorker's* Auletta points out, the magazine is a work in progress which is off to a stellar start, but it has a long way to go to make it commercially. "The Columbia Journalism Review (a review of the magazine published by Columbia University's respected journalism school) has well under 50,000 readers so Brill knows he has to broaden the magazine to include advertising, Hollywood and all aspects of communications. Whether he can grow it into 500,000 in five years? I am sceptical, and that is a mild word."

IF I RULED THE AIRWAVES

THE SUN'S TV COLUMNIST, GARRY BUSHELL, CONJURES UP THE VARIETY THEME NIGHT OF HIS DREAMS

WITH VIEWING figures on a permanent drop, it is clear that TV bosses need to find the cathode equivalent of Viagra to excite viewers and inflate ratings. The tragedy is they've got it, but have forgotten how effective it is...

Variety is the missing element, the big V. A proven success in all its forms, variety can be as nostalgic or as forward-looking as you want it to be. Variety simply means a mixture of performers - turns, as brilliant Lily Savage still calls them. It is the perfect mainstream entertainment - the antidote to specialist channelling. All tastes are catered for, and if you can't stand one act, relax, there will be another act along in a minute.

Here is my fantasy variety schedule:

6pm. *Seaside Special*. We kick our night off with something young, fast and fun. Dancers, comics, singers and speech acts collide in a colourful explosion of talent from Britain's beach resorts.

In 1987, *Seaside Special* and *Summertime Special* regularly gave BBC1 and ITV combined viewing figures of 23 million every Saturday. Eat yer hearts out Noel and Cilla. Other Eighties variety formats did just as impressively. *Live from Her Majesty's* clocked up 15.2 million, *Starburst* 14.7 mill. The standard industry line is that the mainstream TV audience is shrinking. But Del-Boy proves that when the programme is right, the millions flock back. The real reason viewers turn off? Saturday night TV stinks.

7pm. *The Brian Conley Show*. Conley was the last all-round entertainer to get through the door before TV slammed it shut. Tonight's episode opened the summer of 1994 series and includes the gravel-voiced comic's inspired take-off of the Jack Dee widge ad ("Midget, I've got a midget") along with classic kid-friendly comedy characters like Dangerous Brian, and Nick "It's a puppet!" Frisbee.

Produced and directed by Nigel Lythgoe, one of the few sure hands in modern light entertainment, this was a real family show. Too many producers forget the audience, to cater for a narrow metropolitan elite. They care about who is hip, not who is any good, which is why they can't find a new Morecambe & Wise.

7.45pm. *New Faces*. When it comes to talent shows, this is the score to beat. It produced great stars including Jim Davidson, Victoria Wood and Lenny Henry, and saved the sub-standard. Judges like Tony Hatch and Mickle Most knew their stuff. When they said an act stank they were invariably right. But when they raved, TV executives sat up and took notice.

8.45pm. *The Royal Variety Performance*. The show of shows! Tonight we are screening edited highlights from the classic 1993 Royal starring Michael Barrymore before he lost the plot. The big

lion was sensational, mixing staple elements of his stage show with unexpected delights including a superbly choreographed workout with squaddies.

The '93 Royal also made stars of Joe Pasquale and Bradley Walsh. Brad with his controlled comedy aggression, Joe with his daftness.

At the best Pasquale is like a crackpot cross between Tommy Cooper and Frank Spencer. Definitely more slight of mind than sleight of hand.

10pm. *The Joe Longthorne Show*. Who needs *Stars In Their Eyes* when Longthorne is a human jukebox? Joe is a world class talent, a singing impressionist with the reproductive accuracy of a Xerox machine.

TV wilfully ignores stars like Longthorne in favour of legions of autecue readers. Who other than a TV executive could look at the schedules and say: "I know what we need here - another show with

18.00	Seaside Special
19.00	The Brian Conley Show
19.45	New Faces
20.45	The Royal Variety Performance
22.00	The Joe Longthorne Show
22.30	The Bob Monkhouse Show
23.15	Variety 2000

Philip Schofield, or Anthea Dodding Turner...?"

10.30pm. *The Bob Monkhouse Show*. Perhaps British TV's finest example of the chat/variety format. Bright, articulate and a master mirth-maker, Monkhouse made 32 shows for BBC2 between 1983 and 1986. The guest-list reads like a *Who's Who* of comedy, mixing America's funniest - Sid Caesar, Steven Wright, Rita Rudner and Jay Leno - with the cream of British comedians, immortals like Les Dawson, Ronnie Barker, Spike, Charlie Drake, Peter Cook and Frankie Howerd.

This special compilation includes Bob's own favourite guest, Bob Hope, along with Jim Carrey's only British appearance.

11.15pm. *Variety 2000*. My fast-cut fantasy showcase for undiscovered and under-used talent, including a regular slot for new country - the biggest thing in pop, but who'd know it from watching TV?

The audience is armed - with rotting fruit and veg. The late night scheduling allows a satisfying edge of danger and experimentation.

Garry Bushell's New Variety showcase is at The Green Room, Cafe Royal, London W1, on 20, 21 and 22 September

Too much knowledge is a dangerous thing

People are cottoning on to media producers' sharp tricks and won't play the game anymore. By Ed Shelton

THE MEDIA has made itself a monster: a population so media literate that producers are finding ordinary people as hard to control as Frankenstein's fiendish creation. There are some who will say that broadcasters only have themselves to blame - you cannot sprinkle stardust in the eyes of "ordinary people" and expect them to behave like meek camera fodder.

Witness this week's news that those at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, which stars in the BBC docu-soap *Hotel*, are no longer happy to be placidly taped, edited and packaged into engaging television nuggets for the entertainment of the viewing public.

Negotiations on a second series had been ongoing since the start of the year but, according to the trade magazine *Broadcast*, these have now foundered on the hotel owners' insistence on some level of editorial control.

The producers have walked away. Jeremy Mills, executive producer of the programme, said: "We spent some time talking to them, and would have liked to have done a second series, but they decided they wanted some control and no broadcaster is going to give them that." The demise of such a successful

series in this way is emblematic of the difficulties broadcasters face as the black arts of programme-making have been increasingly revealed to an eager public.

Radio producers, for example, are being out-foxed by media-literate listeners who know how to win radio competitions every time.

Sly punters have learnt that a producer likes to put a few amusing wrong answers on the air before the winning entrant. Hence, it is not uncommon now to have callers give the producer a silly, off-the-wall answer in order to get on air. When live, they surprise the producer by delivering the correct answer, leaving the presenter with no choice but to give them the prize.

Matt Hall, editor of afternoon programmes at BBC GLR 94.9 FM, used to run a four-part *Connection* Challenge quiz programme. "We would try to spin it out. Put someone hopelessly wrong on the air first, then after another record someone who had the first part of the answer only, then the next two bits, and eventually the whole connection." "Sometimes the first person on air will have known the answer all

the time, and you have lost your feature for the next 20 minutes," he says.

Similar tricks are being used to get round TV producers. In *Superstore*, a BBC2 docu-soap about a supermarket that was transmitted earlier this year, the manager is said to have deliberately worn a different tie every day to avoid separate interviews being cross-cut at the editing stage, and the possibility of his being quoted out of context.

Other stories include people insisting on smoking cigarettes throughout interviews to cause continuity problems for editors wanting to link the first bit of one answer with the second bit of another delivered later in the interview.

"These days, even your mother knows what a cutaway is," says Paul Woolwich, executive producer of Channel 5's *What's the Story?*, referring to the technique directors would use for such a link if the differing lengths of cigarette did not make it impossible to do seamlessly. "And 'noddies', and 'establishers', people are much more aware of the whole thing. They know that the way to get on a docu-soap is to



Bad driving turned Maureen Rees into a media star

be a 'character', because producers do not just want ordinary people doing ordinary things," he says.

The problem of people acting up to the cameras in these situations has led some producers to abandon south-east England, where it is worst. Kathy O'Neill, at Independent ZKK, says: "It makes a huge differ-

ence where you are in the country. We made a film in Wakefield last year and they were completely natural; even the kids did not play up to the cameras."

The problem is that even if your subjects, like those in *Hotel*, start natural, they soon learn the game. Which is why some docu-soap "stars" are now embarking on full-blown media careers complete with publicity photographs and agents.

The head of factual programmes at Channel 4, Steve Hewlett, says: "People are starting to realise that they can turn a trick in those circumstances. If you are going to be on prime-time BBC1, in front of 12 million people for eight weeks, there is some potential in personal marketing."

Amanda Thompson, one of the main characters in the BBC's *Blackpool Pleasure Beach* docu-soap, got a press agent before the show went out, to capitalise on the exposure. She has since been in *Hello!* magazine and done other TV. *Driving School's* Maureen Rees is also keeping nicely busy.

Such a development is not always welcome: "You do not really want to

be making stars of these people. That defeats the point. The recent *Radio Times* cover that featured docu-soap stars sits uneasily. This is a big issue and it is going to get bigger," says one independent producer.

That looks assured now, as the Broadcasting Standards Commission is considering a research report on the subject of informed consent, looking at the whole question of how the general public gets involved in television, and what issues arise.

The question of final editorial control is likely to be one issue. The researchers could also conclude, however, as some TV airtime specialists have, that instead of worrying about how they appear, subjects might be better advised to get on with cashing in.

According to this analysis, the Adelphi Hotel should have embraced its celebrity role and adapted its sales strategy accordingly, positioning itself as a minor, Disney-style attraction offering guests the thrill of possible stardom. Merchandising deals could have been struck on a range of Liverpool Adelphi hand towels and bath robes, and

lucrative sponsorship deals could have been secured with suppliers scrambling to have their goods on air. "Got the T-shirt, seen the film, stayed in the hotel."

Test your knowledge: are you a media-literate punter? What do the following TV directors' shorthand expressions refer to? Answers below.

Cutaway: two-shot; noddy; establisher; eye-line; jump cut; crossing the line.

Cutaway: a shot of something near to a subject which is used as a link between two different shots of the subject that are inconsistent in some way.

Two-shot: a shot with two people in it.

Noddy: a cutaway of the interviewee's face.

Establisher: a general view of a location used to start a sequence. Eye-line: the direction a person is facing on screen - left or right. Jump cut: a cut between two shots of the same thing at different times in a way that breaks continuity. Crossing the line: editing shots so that the flow of action across the screen switches direction and confuses viewers.

18/MEDIA

Time to act like common people

TV drama should stop showing the working class as just victims or villains. By Michael Collins

IMAGES OF the historical upper class and the contemporary underclass have been captured in British movies of late. Class on the big screen has become synonymous with ladies in crinolines and lads on crack.

But where are the films that cast the working class as neither homeless victims, nor nouveau riche villains living in a house that smacks about?

The names of Ken Loach and Mike Leigh are first out of the hat, and yet *Secrets and Lies* hardly rates as an everyday slice of Nineties Social Realism. A white woman has a black daughter, an outside lavatory, and the most extreme screen example of a working class home since Hilda Ogden hung a "muriel".

The answer should lie with television and particularly the BBC, currently taking baby steps to put drama back to the place it found it, in the halcyon days of *The Wednesday Play*. According to a recent issue of *Broadcast*, the network is in search of more "working class series".

In an attempt to prove that the Beeb's comedy output is not confined to middle-class lads and vicars, the department has lined up Caroline Aherne's sit-com depicting life in a Northern working class household, *The Royle Family*.

Although it is doubtful that this

will address touchy issues of race and country that continue to crop up in working class conversation.

BBC drama, meanwhile, has high hopes for a series on the lower classes entitled *Births, Marriages, Deaths*.

This is a departure from the current form where the social orbit of domestic dramas is entirely middle-class. The only window into the World Of The British Working Class is via cop series and the soap opera.

The *Guardian* columnist Linda Grant wrote recently that "the soap opera survives as the only real relevant and popular form of television drama". But neither *Coronation Street* nor *EastEnders* are relevant or representative. Weatherfield is a fossilised neverworld. Life in Albert Square is what Gary Bushell dismisses as "a liberal fantasy".

The genre has become part cartoon, part morality play. Each week these ensembles stagger through new storylines lifted from old headlines: surrogacy, drugs, date rape, gang warfare, incest. By comparison the "loose woman versus nosy neighbour" doorstep battles, from early *Coronation Street* episodes, drip with authenticity.

Similar is true of the slice-of-life drama from the Fifties, in which the working class were first taken from below stairs and put on the box. "Good, honest, fumbling peo-

ple caught up in tiny tragedies" was how scriptwriter Ted Willis described *Dixon Of Dock Green* and the working class characters in the films *Holiday Camp* and *No Trees In Our Street*.

The best description of the work of Ted Willis comes from his account of an affair between a young middle class secretary and a husband of a working class housewife in *A Woman In A Dressing Gown*: "A group of human beings in the grip of an unrecognisable situation," he said. This remains an apt guideline for TV drama nowadays, but is more appropriate to docu-soaps.

Despite realism more dodgy than dirty, since the accusations of set-up scenes, this phenomenon did at last get the producers thinking.

They were worried that soap opera would not be able to compete. If so, the solution is not to

crank up the histrionics in soaps. The appeal of docu-soaps is in the public recognising the language and the characters once found in TV drama.

Last year, when Peter Anson left as Head Of Drama at Channel Four, he claimed that the BBC were churning out too many derivative detective series in order to compete with ITV drama.

He recalled the Sixties era of *Cathy Come Home*, and cited Xosha Hughes and his mates in the Eighties' *Boys From The Blackstuff* as being "part of a culture that placed human drama at the centre of storytelling, with their speech rooted confidently in recognisable characters and credible dialogue."

Television may have had its fill of plot-led crime series as a peg to hang working class characters as villains, but the issue-based dramas which cast them solely as victims pulls into a similar cul-de-sac.

When Ken Loach brought *Cathy Come Home* to the small screen in the Sixties, its verite style and the central performance by Carol White highlighted the plight of the homeless.

It was first past the post in dealing with this subject, in this style, in television drama.

The form has now slipped into parody. Backstreet abortion was the issue that was to single out Loach's adaptation of Neil Dumit's book *Up The Junction*. Between the hard men and the hard times, the crude camera work and the use of monologue and flashback revealed the lives of two young sisters as vibrant, humorous, and ultimately optimistic. Nowadays, if there is any wit, aspiration, or pursuit of glamour in the lives of working class characters it is a hidden extra, concealed between drug deals, bank jobs and visits to dysfunctional families.

Not since Northerners donned their cloth caps and dragged their clogs down cobbled streets has a section of society stirred the creative juices of writers with a social conscience.

What's it got? It's got the lot: drugs, homelessness, alcohol, prostitution and abuse. This is part of the story of the British Working class in the Nineties but not the whole.

By representing it as such, the issue became so commonplace as to be invisible, and the plot and character as formulaic as a soap. If Gary Oldman's *Nil By Mouth* succeeds as a story of a South London family characterised by the problems of domestic violence, drugs and drink it is perhaps the autobiographical input of the author that confirms a realistic portrayal.

The same is true of Richard Billington's fly-on-the-wall photos at last year's sensation exhibition,

capturing the squalor and alcoholism of everyday lives.

Cast as the leading man in *Nil By Mouth*, Ray Winstone is to have the main part in *Births, Marriages And Deaths*.

It is a boy's own story revealing the ups and downs in the lives of three likely lads from London's East End. Will it take its cue from the style championed by the BBC's *Our Friends In The North*?

If so, we can expect an everyday tale of zelig-like characters, who find themselves on the fringe of every defining pop, cultural or political moment of the last three decades from skiffle music to secondary picketing via foreign war zones.

Or the BBC could surprise us by returning to the kitchen sink, going back to the drawing board, and rediscovers what Ted Willis called "the marvellous world of the ordinary".



Ray Winstone's superb portrayal of working class violence and alcoholism in Gary Oldman's *Nil By Mouth*

Move to clean out the inside traders

The City is saying farewell to self-regulation - and journalists could be saying hello to unlimited fines. By Richard Cook

AS THE EIGHTIES' decade of cocktails and contrasts, merely thinking about those halcyon days still has the power to make the City's wallets bulge and its noses ache. And even now, every once in a while, the urge to reminisce about this turbulent time still passes over many of today's financial journalists and PR operators like a pure nostalgic breath from a decadent, devious, and downright more interesting decade.

But never has this urge toward nostalgia been more powerful than now. Because now, finally, the City is promising to say goodbye to one of its last great Eighties legacies - the principle of self-regulation. Now, for the first time, financial journalists and public relations agencies could face unlimited fines for publishing misleading financial information, under new proposals being advanced by the Financial Services Authority.

Both classes have long been liable to prosecution, of course, in cases involving the most flagrant insider dealing, for instance. In practice, however, this meant that anything that didn't warrant a high-speed chase down Bishopsgate with a black-jacketed fraud squad in close pursuit was likely to slip through the legislative net.

But no longer. Under the terms of new measures, no one at all must deal or induce others to deal in any investment when they have information which cannot be freely obtained by others. Previously only registered investment professionals were liable to financial penalty.

Journalists and PR professionals will be in the same position as all other users of the markets, an FSA spokesman confirms. "Nothing in the draft Code is aimed at inhibiting investigative reporting; but equally there is no good reason for exempting from the Code journalists who manipulate markets."

They are words that would have sent a dread chill through the financial media of just a few years ago. It's

little more than a couple of decades, after all, since at least one City editor drew no salary at all. This was because of the proprietor's admirable insistence that any City editor worth their salt should be in a position to make a decent enough living from the information that passed his way.

And what of the financial PR industry? The practice of the Friday night drop has a long and noble history. This is the procedure whereby sensitive financial information is carefully leaked to the Sunday newspaper of choice. It has been an especially useful device during some of the City's most bitter takeover battles.

It's hard for financial hacks not to feel a twinge of sadness at its pass-

All the papers now have policies about financial staff dealing in shares, even if it's just 'not to do anything that will end up in Private Eye'

ing. Many still talk fondly of the brightly grand, old-school financial PR reduced to climbing through the window at the Telegraph's City offices in the early Eighties, it being considered too dangerous to be seen using the front door. More prosaic were all those "chance" Friday night meetings between the two camps in any of a number of strategic hostilities. Information in the Sea Horse, for example, in St Paul's, close to the then homes of the FT and Telegraph in Bracken House, tended to go a whole lot further than a press release would have dared - certainly further than the new legislation would condone.

But how much is the new legislation really likely to change things? For journalists the answer is probably not much. All the papers now have poli-

cies about financial staff dealing in shares, ranging from the official declaration of any and all share interests to the more practical admonition "not to do anything that will end up in *Private Eye*" that still serves as the official guideline on at least one paper.

For the financial PR industry the implications are more serious. It doesn't help that the industry has been rocked by scandal. Two years ago the takeover panel castigated Financial Dynamics for its actions on behalf of Amec in fighting off a hostile bid, and a year ago it was the turn of Citigate to fall foul of the takeover panel.

"Part of the problem is that financial PR companies are now trying to re-invent themselves as communications consultants, and trying to get more involved with the whole financial process, rather than just answering journalists' calls and passing on basic information about the company," points out Roger Parry, chief executive of More O'Ferrall the poster company that itself recently emerged from a protracted two-way bid.

The PR companies themselves, while largely welcoming the FSA proposals as evidence that their industry is maturing and becoming more professional, remain convinced that the bulk of their journey toward fiscal responsibility is already completed. "I don't think the legislation will have quite the same effect on the industry as it might have had in the past," says Richard Oldworth, chief executive of Buchanan Communications, "because nowadays PR companies are already regulated by the simple fact that all price sensitive information must go to the Stock Exchange first. And increasingly financial PR companies are comprised of former stockbrokers and financial journalists who understand how the regulatory framework operates."

Which is all very well, but don't tell me that they are not all going to miss those window-clambering days - once, that is, they are finally gone.

PITCH

AN ADVERTISING AGENCY AND A PR FIRM TRY TO STOP VIRGIN TRAINS BEING THE BUTT OF SO MANY JOKES

Bill Jones, Chief Executive, Lexis Public Relations

There is no substitute for running clean trains on time. That would be the best message to be able to communicate to people, rather than some of these weasel words that Virgin, along with the other train operators, are currently using.

The problem is that Richard Branson's got himself into an area that has institutionalised standards - standards which the operators think they ought to achieve rather than what the public thinks they ought to achieve. The two measures of service they seem to use at the moment on their posters are 'reliability' and 'punctuality'. In April, Virgin allegedly had 85.3 per cent punctuality and 99.6 per cent reliability - but what's in the gap between the two? It's codswallop, really: these are terms that the industry has convinced itself communicate benefits to the public, but don't.

Also on their posters they talk about building on their 'excellent' reliability record, but as a communicator, I wouldn't use the word 'excellent' in connection with any train service. They've got years before they can use adjectives like that - at the moment they're at base camp. They've got to use words like 'trying harder' and 'appreciating the problems', and empathise with customers over delays. The trains may turn up, but they're clearly not running on time.

So my advice to Virgin would be to first get a deep understanding of the barriers to running trains on time, and then communicate that understanding internally. I do think internal, or employee, communications are more important than external communication to an extent in this case.

There's no point telling the public that you are running an excellent service, if the public experience of that service is dealing with strotty ticket



collectors, or with people serving refreshments who don't care if they haven't got what you want. That means Virgin Trains needs to inspire everyone who works for them to care about the customer in the way that Virgin has managed to do in its other businesses.

Branson then needs to get his feet under the industry table, particularly with Railtrack, so that the traveller gets the idea that a single train operator's problems are not down to just that train operator. Words on posters like 'together with Railtrack we're improving reliability' tell me that Virgin probably has some issues to lay at Railtrack's door, and it's not doing it publicly. I wouldn't necessarily recommend it right now, but once Virgin have got a bit of experience, Branson is going to have to come out and campaign in the media, to take to task the industry that he's trying to become part of.

And he's got to identify what those campaigns should be - it may be a campaign for an overhaul of signalling technology, say. He's already done an interview with Panorama, which I think was an attempt to be open and honest about Virgin's approach to running trains, but he did have to stop at one stage because he didn't really understand all the facts. Once he does, then he can get back on to TV.

Ultimately, it's about saying that there are some issues in the whole business of running trains that nobody has dealt with for years, and that Virgin is going to start trying to tackle some of these to give the customer a better service.

There is a reservoir of goodwill in this country for Richard Branson, and I'm on his side. I think that if anyone can run a decent train service, it will be him.

Tim Mellors, Creative Director, Mellors Reay PR

PR could initially do a great deal more than advertising here. But more than either of those, Branson could do with actually getting the service right. In the end, you can advertise and PR the hell out of a product, but if it's continually bad, you will lose both custom and kudos. And this is a dangerous thing for Virgin, because it has a good name: one weak link like this could chip away at it. The sad thing is that it is in a similar area - on aeroplanes - that Branson built up a lot of the prestige that he has.

So it occurred to me that he might take a leaf out of the Virgin Airlines' book. One of the best things they did on Virgin Airlines was, when everyone else just showed films, to put MTV or Mr Bean on. You must be able to put TVs on trains - and that would give the service a point of difference. It's part of the image of Virgin to be young and different, and what's disappointing about the trains is that they're no alternative at all. Even their design is very staid, so I think he could get in a good new young designer - to do something a bit more sparse. What he also did on the Upper Class of his airline when he started that was to bring in massage and manicures. Those would be easy things to bring onto trains, and would give the idea he's catering in a different way. Speaking of catering, he could

get Yo Sushi, say, to do something too. They've got to give people a reason to travel.

And, once you've got that kind of difference in there, then you can mount an advertising campaign based on it. And people would very quickly accept that, because Branson's got high credibility. But here, he really does have to do things differently.

It would have to be a sexy campaign. Rail travel, other than Eurostar, is very unsexy, and Virgin could hammer in a nail of difference by being a sexier train service. That's the pitch really - to make it glamorous - because, in truth, rail travel is a very glamorous way of travel, in that you're relaxed and it's an island of calm for a couple of hours. You might do something comparing it to balloon travel - in that it's smooth, and you're in a world of your own, only it's faster.

I wouldn't normally advocate using 'the chairman of the company', but I think I would stick Branson in there now, at the centre of a TV campaign. Because there's been so much harm done already, I think it might be reassuring for him to endorse it. My feeling is that he has no presence in this in terms of business, and so it might be advisable for him to do a bit of travelling on those trains and get himself seen, as he used to do on Virgin Airlines. He needs to give people the feeling that when they wrote to him and complained, he would respond. Branson's the natural hanger for it.

You are made to think that in some magical way he's involved with the Megastores (even though he isn't any more), and that the colas were his idea, but the trains seem to be just an add-on to the empire.

He needs to bring it back very firmly within the Virgin philosophy. It needs to be something that taps into the Bransomness of it, really.

When the pen is the key to the gaol door

Sometimes the last thing a campaigning journalist needs is worldwide exposure.

Especially when it can land them, or those they are trying to help, in jail (or worse). By Mark Lattimer

As the nurses Deborah Farry and Lucille McLauchlan stepped off the plane from Saudi Arabia into the waiting arms of the press last month, the warmth of the greeting may have been due to more than just money. Ever since their indictment for murder, their photographs had never been long absent from our television screens or the pages of newspapers increasingly prepared to take their side. Their UK passports had always marked them out as different from other prisoners in Saudi Arabia, but the level of public exposure made it impossible for either British business interests or the government to ignore them. As they stood there on the tarmac, blinking at the ladies and gentlemen of the press, the two British nurses may

That journalism has the power to stop human rights abuses, and maybe even save lives, is the unspoken assumption behind the Amnesty International Press Awards, taking place this Thursday at the Park Lane Hotel in London. Amnesty International itself started with a newspaper article, back in 1961, and the hundreds of thousands of letters sent by Amnesty members since to seek the release of prisoners of conscience bear testimony to the belief that writing can save lives.

But to suggest an unquestioning faith in the virtue of publishing information would be wrong. For one thing, the dissemination of information in countries round the world is rarely controlled by human rights journalists. The irony of relying on the media to publicise their plight would not be lost on the Tiananmen Square dissidents, many of whom were captured after "wanted" pictures, taken from surveillance cameras mounted in the square, were broadcast on Chinese television.

Journalism can also place lives at risk, not least those of the reporters themselves. British journalists killed abroad include Farzad Bazoft in Iraq and David Blundy in El Salvador. In Ethiopia, more than 200 editors and reporters from the independent press have been arrested since 1993, nearly all of them for publishing articles critical of the government. For such journalists, writing is not a job, nor even just a passion: it becomes a life choice.

Salima Ghezali is 40, Editor of *La Nation* in Algeria, she was the only female editor of a national newspaper throughout the Middle East - until, that is, the Algerian authorities closed it down just over a year ago. Over 70 journalists have been murdered in Algeria, but although she can now only publish abroad and on the Internet, Salima goes on writing, arguing for human rights and a negotiated end to the conflict. When I met her in April, her casual bravery was daunting. "I hear from a friend that someone has told someone they know that I talk too much and will be found in a ditch with my throat cut. They may kill me, but they can't kill everyone."

This year at the Amnesty International Press Awards, a new award for human rights journalism under threat will be made to a journalist like Salima Ghezali who has made that personal calculation that their work is worth the risk. And the ferocity with which such journalists are suppressed in countries like Algeria is perhaps the best indicator of all that journalism has the power to initiate change.

The media's traditional impact has also received a formidable technological boost in recent years. The



An woman grieving after a massacre in Benthal, Algeria. The photograph, which won the World Press Photo of the Year 1977 award for Hocine of AFP, helped bring the plight of thousands of people in Algeria to the world's attention

pen may be mightier than the sword, but it is the satellite which has transformed reportage in the last decade. Television pictures of the immediate aftermath of the mortar explosion in a Sarajevo market-place enabled the shock waves to be felt across the world. As viewers reacted in horror, their response helped galvanise the reaction of the international community.

Reportage, of course, no matter how immediate, will in one tragic sense always be too late. Try as they will, journalists cannot control how their work is received or what happens once it is published, and the primary function of journalism in situations of repression or conflict

will always be confined to recording human rights abuse rather than preventing it. But that role should not be undervalued.

The survivors of war crimes or human rights violations repeatedly beg for their stories to be told to the outside world. The craving for justice can fill the rest of their lives. And the experience of Amnesty International, from El Salvador to Bosnia to Rwanda, is that the publication of evidence is often what first ruptures the culture of impunity which allows systematic violations of human rights to occur.

Last year, angered by the fact that men indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity were still

circulating freely in the former Yugoslavia, human rights activists posted a log of their whereabouts on the Internet. The movements of 66 fugitives, supposedly in hiding, were tracked, partly "to mock and embarrass" those who pretended not to know where they were. By last week the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague had risen to 28.

Mark Lattimer is the Communications Director at Amnesty International UK. The Amnesty International UK Press Awards take place on Thursday evening at the Park Lane Hotel, London

Why every child needs a media manager

Children must be protected from the press, whatever the sins of their fathers or mothers. By Jaclyn Moriarty

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD girls worry about these things: Which TV stars you're supposed to love and which to hate. Skin care. School friends. How not to smudge your eyeliner when you find yourself weeping during adolescence.

Which is why, when we envision Mary Bell explaining to her 14-year-old daughter that Mother is a murderer - with the sound of tabloid journalists thumping on the door in the background - we feel so shocked and so moved.

Last month, when the tabloids hounded Mary Bell into revealing her family secret, they shattered 14 years of carefully constructed lies.

Literally constructed. For the order which protected Mary Bell's daughter from the secret of her mother's past was an invention purely for her. Justice Balcombe created Mary Bell Orders in 1984, building on the court's inherent jurisdiction to take care of children.

If we can issue an injunction against the world to preserve a ship, argued Justice Balcombe, then obviously we can do so to preserve a child.

Since 1984, these freshly manufactured orders have been put to diligent work. They have been used to stop publicity about children born of surrogacy agreements or orphaned in ferry disasters, about children who have been sexually abused or who are terminally ill. They have been used to shield the daughter of Sarah Keays, and the children of Rosemary West.

So why has the Mary Bell Order had such momentum? Why, in a country that does not protect the privacy of adults, do we allow children this privilege? The answer is two-fold.

First, society sees children as peculiarly susceptible to publicity. Second, society senses that children ought to be shielded from awful truths.

When Justice Balcombe invented the order, he was foreseeing a life of whispers for Mary Bell's daughter. Indeed, whenever judges protect children's privacy (either through Mary Bell Orders, or through a statutory equivalent that protects children involved in legal proceedings), their concern is with the image of the child in a cosy family living room, safe from the harsh public world of media and gossip.

So in 1912 the House of Lords exempted child wards from the principle of open justice, since "The affairs are truly private affairs; the transactions are transactions truly intra familiar."

Tim Crook, a journalist and academic who has challenged numerous court privacy orders, says that he rarely hears genuine evidence that publicity causes children trauma. "This is simply assumed," he explains. "The child's need for privacy becomes a kind of mantra, so that it's unfashionable heresy to even question the logic of the assumption."

Mr Crook also worries that criminal parents can shelter behind the spurious privacy needs of their children, depriving the public of information and eclipsing the rights of crime victims.

Dr Judith Libow, a child psychiatrist, might disagree - at least in relation to the privacy needs of certain children. One of the handful of people to publish research on child privacy, Dr Libow points out that children who have been involved in a trauma as, for example, the victims of crime or of natural disaster, may find their trauma exacerbated by publicity. "Contact with the media is unique in its immediacy and intensity," writes Dr Libow.

When Justice Balcombe invented his Mary Bell Order, he may also have been thinking that Mary Bell's baby should never discover her mother's terrible past. The idea of sheltering children from unpleasant truths is not new. It is the foundation of the film and video classification system. It also, ironically, is precisely the reason why child and family legal proceedings were shielded from publicity, even before children's special privacy needs were acknowledged.

Anxious about the flood of publicity surrounding divorce courts in the 19th century, Queen Victoria wrote to the Government and asked whether nothing could be done to prevent it. "These cases," she fretted, "fill now almost daily a large portion of the newspapers, and are of so scandalous a character that it makes it almost impossible for a paper to be trusted in the hands of a young lady or boy."

Complaints like this led to publicity restrictions on divorce courts that remain in force today.

The idea that happy childhood depends on blissful ignorance revolves around myths about the child's essential purity - myths which may stem from adult neuroses, and which may in fact endanger children.

Mary Bell claimed that she was waiting for her daughter to be ready before she revealed her turbulent past. And that is the key. Secrets



Mary Bell: 14 years of carefully constructed lies were shattered

ought to be revealed to children, but parents know best how and when to reveal them.

Children should sometimes be exposed to the media - but parents know best how and when this should happen. After experiencing trauma, explains Dr Libow, children "need to feel that their world is once again under control and especially that their parents are again in authority."

Sometimes, of course, parents are not good media managers. One prominent actress' mother signed a consent form allowing nude photos of her adolescent daughter to be prominently displayed.

What Mary Bell has in common with Sarah Keays is this: that at some point, each of them was denied the right to be their children's media manager. Mary Bell wanted her daughter protected from press intrusion and the tabloids scurped her chances. Sarah Keays wanted her daughter to be involved in publicity - the courts refused.

Children's media relations raise complex issues and there are no easy answers. But one thing is clear. If parents' media decisions are not respected, we may find that increasing numbers of 14-year-olds are weeping with genuine cause.



Wei Jingsheng: international pressure has an important role

just have seen in them their saviours. They left behind them hundreds of other foreign prisoners, many themselves the victims of unfair trials, some facing the death penalty, none able to benefit from the media exposure that Parry and McLauchlan had enjoyed. In 1997 at least 125 people, mostly foreigners from Africa and Asia, were executed in Saudi Arabia.

Although it is notoriously difficult to pinpoint the cause of political actions, public exposure is clearly a key factor in the fate of many famous dissidents, including Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan in China, both of whom were released from prison in the last six months. Wei said on his release: "When I was in prison, my treatment would vary from good to bad at different times. Pressure exerted by the international community and various governments played an important role."

TRIAL BY MEDIA

CHEF ANTHONY WORRALL THOMPSON TURNS THE TABLES ON RESTAURANT REVIEWERS



THE RELATIONSHIP between food critic and restaurateur can be compared to a marriage that has hit the rocks. Not that we should have tied the knot in the first place, since there are times when we positively hate each other. Both sides would say the same thing of their other half: can't live with them, but definitely can't live without them.

As there are good and bad chefs, there are also good and bad critics; there are those with phenomenal fame or notoriety, and there are those who, for no particular reason, rarely get mentioned.

Top of the mentionables is AA Gill, the postcode critic who needs to remember that there is life in restaurants outside London. He is brilliant when writing acid comments at the restaurant's expense, but is less interesting when the establish-

ment pleases. Word on the street is that he shouldn't have written the *Joy Cookbook* as it is a little like a restaurant owner writing restaurant guides - not the done thing.

Another reviewer taken seriously is Jonathan Meades of the *Saturday Times*, a critic in earnest. If you're not really into architecture or don't need a good read but want to know about the restaurant he is reviewing, turn to the last two paragraphs of his piece. A man who appears to write with a Thesaurus beside his PC, I have probably learnt more new words reading his column than I learnt in all my school days.

The one critic London restaurateurs take seriously is Fay Maschler, who has been at the keys over the past 26 years for the *Evening Standard*. After that length of time, eating up to six meals a week in order to pen

reviews, it must be hard to stimulate the readers' senses, but she does just that. Every read has as much enthusiasm as if she were in her first year.

One rung below on the ladder of fame you find Matthew Fort of *The Guardian*, a delightful chap who doesn't have a bad bone in his old Etonian body - the PG Wodehouse of the critics' world. More of a food writer than a restaurant critic, Fort is not for those who revel in other people's misfortunes.

Following closely in the hierarchy comes Craig Brown of *The Daily Telegraph*, who was the talk of the country when at *The Sunday Times* (pre-Gill, of course). He writes with humour, but more important for me he writes as a member of the public. He has none of the foodie airs and graces of the average restaurant critic; if you want to know what a restaurant

really feels like apart from just the food, Craig's the one for you.

There are other critics who come and go, but the above-named are the ones who matter to restaurateurs. We all have our favourites, and equally recognise the ones we can't stand; I couldn't name one who takes Michael Winner and his dinners seriously. In my opinion he is a man who gives critics a bad name. Unless you're into name-dropping or have a keen interest in Lear Jets, give his column a miss.

Good reviews from a mainstream critic can fill a new restaurant, but contrary to general opinion a bad review doesn't close you down, you just have to try a little harder. When reading a review, remember that you are reading a very personal opinion, just as you are now.

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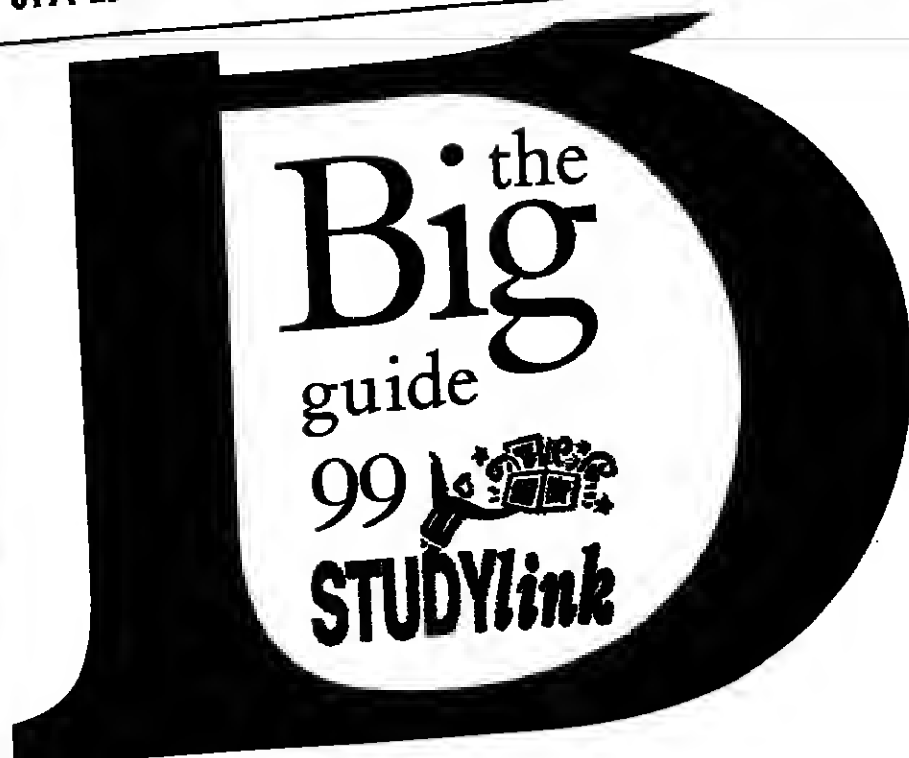
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SIDCUP

ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup City Of Angels 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm. The Wedding Singer 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-907071) BR: Cricklewood City Of Angels 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm. Deep Impact 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm. The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm.

STREATHAM

ABC (0870-902041) BR: Streatham Hill The Full Monty 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm. The Grass Harp 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm. Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.30pm.

STRATFORD

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR: Stratford East City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm. The Full Monty 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.15pm. Mrs Brown 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm. The Wings Of The Dove 2.15pm, 5.45pm.

SUTTON

ABC (0950-888990) BR: Sutton UCI 1.00pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm. The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm, 10.35pm.

TURNPIKE LANE

CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR: Turnpike Lane, The Apostle 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm. The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm.

UKRIDE

ODEON (01895-813139) BR: Ukridge City Of Angels 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm. The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm, 10.35pm.

WALTHAMSTOW

ABC (0207-920242) BR: Walthamstow Central The Full Monty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. The Replacement Killers 5.55pm. Soul Food 2pm, 5.30pm. The Wedding Singer 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm.

WALTON ON THAMES

THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-225825) BR: Walton on Thames City Of Angels 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.25pm. The Wedding Singer 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm.

WELL HALL

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Soul Food 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm. The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm.

WILLESDEN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) BR: Willesden Green Jackie Brown 3.30pm, 8.15pm.

WOOD GREEN

NEW CURZON WOOD GREEN (0181-347 6664) BR: Turnpike Lane Achankov 5pm. Dharma Grahani 10.45pm. The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm.

WOODFORD

ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: South Woodford City Of Angels 2.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm. The Full Monty 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm. The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm.

WOOLWICH

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal City Of Angels 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm. The Full Monty 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm.

CINEMA

REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queensberry Place SW1 (0171-832 2144) Y/A Pas De Probleme (NC) 4pm.

EVERYMAN Hollybush Vale NW3 (0171-435 1525) Soft Upper Lips (15) 9pm. The Manchester Candidate (15) 1pm, 4.55pm + The Sweet Smell Of Success 3.10pm, 7.10pm.

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) Spiritual Visions Part 1 (NC) 5.30pm, 8.30pm. Changing Images (12) 5pm, 7pm. Fallen Angels (18) 9pm.

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) Point Blank (18) 2.30pm, 8.45pm. I Want Down (15) 6.15pm. Rammed (NC) 6.30pm. Royal Variety Performance - 1992: Television (NC) 7pm To Boldly Go... Avant Garde Showcase: Sexes (NC) 8.30pm.

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) Everest (U) 11.15am, 1.20pm, 4.35pm, 5.30pm, 7.35pm, 9.40pm. Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (2-10) (U) 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm, 10.40pm.

PHOENIX High Road W2 (0181-883 2233) Afterglow (15) 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. Sliding Doors (15) 3.40pm, 5.55pm. The Apostle (12) 6pm. Oscar And Lucinda (15) 1pm.

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) A Life Less Ordinary (15) 6.30pm. Bill By Mouth (18) 8.45pm. Way The Day (15) 1.30pm. Westerns (18) 3.30pm.

RIO Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254 5677) Soul Food (15) 6.15pm, 8.45pm. Hercules (U) 4.15pm.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-741 2255) M (1981 Version) (PG) 6.30pm + Pandora's Box 8.50pm.

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middx (0181-568 1178) Oscar And Lucinda (15) 4pm.

BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-626261) The Magnificent Seven (PG) 1.15pm. My Boy Tom The Fantastic (15) 6.45pm. Westerns (15) 4pm, 8.45pm.

BRISTOL WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Afterglow (15) 8.25pm. Getting to Dylan (NC) 8.20pm. The Taste Of Cherry (PG) 6pm. Underground (15) 5pm.

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Washington Square (PG) 2.45pm, 9.30pm. Westerns (15) 12.15pm, 7pm. Wild Man Blues (12) 5pm.

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) The Scarlet Ties (12) 8pm.

IPSWICH IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Afterglow (15) 8.30pm. Broadway Damage (NC) 2.30pm, 6pm. Slaves To The Underground (NC) 8.15pm. Washington Square (PG) 6.15pm.

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-822047) The Big Lebowski (18) 8.15pm. TwentySeven (15) 2.30pm, 5.45pm.

PLYMOUTH PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) Prisoner Of The Mountains (15) 8pm.

BATH ABC CINEMA (01225-461730) City Of Angels (12).

LITTLE THEATRE (01225-468822) The Real Blonde (15). The General (15).

ROBINS CINEMA (01225-461506) Sliding Doors (15). The Full Monty (15). The Wedding Singer (12).

BRISTOL ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9181) Some Like It Hot (U). Live Flesh (18). Great Expectations (15).

BRISTOL CINEMAWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-831099) Anastasia (U). Blues Brothers 2000 (PG). Mouseshunt (PG). Sliding Doors (15). The Replacement Killers (18). Titanic (12). Mrs Brown (PG). Wishmaster (18). Backdraft (15). The Wings Of The Dove (15). The Wedding Singer (12). Martha (15). West Front, Daniel & Laurence (15). City Of Angels (12). Sham Ghanasham (NC). Sluff Upper Lips (15). The Big Lebowski (18). Star Kid (PG). The Full Monty (15). Savior (18). Babe (U). Deep Impact (12). Paws (PG). Scream 2 (18). The Apostle (12). Sarabhai Dastgir Goshal Stog (PG). A Thousand Acres (15).

OPHEUS HENLEAZE (0117-962 1644) Mrs Brown (PG). Star Kid (PG). Washington Square (PG). The Full Monty (15). The Wings Of The Dove (15). Sliding Doors (15).

ODEON (0117-929 0882) City Of Angels (12). Flubber (U). As Good As It Gets (15). The Wedding Singer (12). The Land Before Time (U). George Of The Jungle (U).

ABC WHITELADIES ROAD (0117-973 3640) The Full Monty (15). City Of Angels (12). Sliding Doors (15).

EXETER ODEON (01392-430671) City Of Angels (12). Jackie Brown (15). Seven Years In Tibet (PG). Flubber (U). Fairytale: A True Story (U). Good Will Hunting (15). As Good As It Gets (15). My Best Friend's Wedding (12). James And The Giant Peach (U). Star Kid (PG). Amistad (15). Mouseshunt (PG). Sliding Doors (15). White (15). Paws (PG). The Sound Of Music (U). The Wedding Singer (12).

PICTURE HOUSE (01392-435522) Welcome To The Dothous (15). Boogie Nights (18). Junk Mail (Bud-bright) (15). Written On The Wind (PG). Saturday Night Fever (18). Tarzan The Other (PG). Great Expectations (15). Kungum (12). Faust (Munaw Version) (PG). Washington Square (PG).

OXFORD ABC GEORGE STREET (0541-555051) Sliding Doors (15). Hercules (U). The Full Monty (15). The Wedding Singer (12).

ABC MAGDALEN STREET (0541-555059) City Of Angels (12).

PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE (01865-554909) Salut Cousin! (15). Gumbo (18). U Al Di Famille (15). Liar (18). Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya (PG). Afterglow (15). The Vanishing (15). Boogie Nights (18). A Thousand Acres (15). The Real Blonde (15). The Magnificent Ambersons (U). Scream 2 (18). Space Jam (U).

SOUTHAMPTON HARBOUR LIGHTS CINEMA (01703-224234) Girls Shorts (18). Some Prefer Cake (NC). Wild Man Blues (NC). The Apostle (12). Boy Shorts (18). Wessex Film Archive (NC). Broadway Damage (NC). George Of The Jungle (U). Slaves To The Underground (NC). The Man In My Life (12). Like It Is (18).

ODEON LESUREWORLD (01703-222111) A Thousand Acres (15). Deep Impact (12). The Wedding Singer (12). The Wings Of The Dove (15). Soul Food (15). Wild Things (18). Paws (PG). Titanic (12). The Replacement Killers (18). City Of Angels (12). Wishmaster (18). Flubber (U). The Borrowers (U). Mouseshunt (PG). Jackie Brown (15). Milla (15). Blues Brothers 2000 (PG). Scream 2 (18). Anastasia (U). Sluff Upper Lips (15). Mrs Brown (PG). Fairytale: A True Story (U). Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence (15). Sliding Doors (15). Good Burger (PG). Spaceworld - The Movie (PG). Dark City (15). George Of The Jungle (U). Red Corner (15).

VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-555132) City Of Angels (12). Fairytale: A True Story (U). Sliding Doors (15). The Wedding Singer (12). Titanic (12). Deep Impact (12). Mouseshunt (PG).

WATFORD WARNER VILLAGE (01923-582222) Sliding Doors (15). City Of Angels (12). Scream 2 (18). City Of Angels (12). The Wedding Singer (12). Way The Day (15). Deep Impact (12). Sluff Upper Lips (15). A Thousand Acres (15). Wishmaster (18). Star Kid (PG). Red Corner (15). Jungle 2. Jungle (PG). Anastasia (U). Milla (15). Mouseshunt (PG). Titanic (12).

YEovil ABC CINEMA (01935-413333) The Wedding Singer (12). The Full Monty (15). 101 Dalmatians (U). George Of The Jungle (U). City Of Angels (12).

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals. ● - Seats at all prices. ● - Seats at some prices. ● - Returns only. Matinees - (1) Sun, (2) Tue, (3) Wed, (4) Thu, (5) Fri, (6) Sat, (7) Sun.

ART Richard Griffiths, Tony Haygarth, Malcolm Storry in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ● Leic. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 8pm, Sat 5pm, Sun 5pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

AS YOU LIKE IT Shake-speare's literary comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge. In rep, today 2pm, ends 8 Sep, £5-£20, concs available.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ● Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £17.50-£32.50, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ● Leic. Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 5pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY Musical biopic about the life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ● Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats Sun 4pm, £6.75-£30, 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Park Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ● Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, W1 (0171-344 0055) ● Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £16-£36 (inc book-ing fee), 130 mins.

CLOSER Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships. Lyric Shalesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ● Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £9-£27.50, 140 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company test-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ● Pic. Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sun 4pm, £9.50-£20, 120 mins.

ELTON JOHN'S GLASS-ES David Fair's comedy about one man's obsession with Watford Football Club and their failure to win the Cup Final in 1984. Queen's Shalesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590/cc 344 4444) ● Pic. Circ. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £10.50-£27.50, 140 mins.

GAS STATION ANGEL Story of two lovers who are fated to meet, from the creator of Love in America. Not suitable for children. Royal Court Upstairs (at the Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ● Leic. Sat 7.45pm, mats Sat 4pm, ends 27 Jun, £5-£10, benches 10p, Mon & matinees - all seats £5, 130 mins.

THE GIFT Angela de Castro's exploration of love and loss through clowning. Eccle 2 (0171-638 8891) ● Barbican/Moorgate. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue, Thu & Sat 2.30pm, tonight 7pm, ends 4 Jul, £12-£15.

GREASE Marissa Ounp stars in the stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Circle, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ● Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE Paula Vogel's drama about a incestuous relationship between a teenager and her uncle. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ● Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thu & Sat 4pm, £12-£16, concs available.

THE ICEMAN COMETH Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's classic testimony to the power of dreams. Old Vic The Old Vic, SE1 (0171-828 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/VC Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7pm, mats Sat 1.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-£30, 180 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Albany St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 867 1111) ● Leic. Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 3pm, £7.45pm, Sun 5pm, £10-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ● Leic. Sat 7.45pm, Sun 8.15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

KAT AND THE KINGS Musical set in 1950s Cape Town. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) ● Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 8pm, Sat 4pm, £12.50-£35, 135 mins.

A LETTER OF RESIGNATION Hugh Whitmore's play about the Profumo affair and political morality. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) ● Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 8pm, Sat 4pm, £12.50-£35, 135 mins.

LIFEGAME Innovative drama based on audience participation. Lyric Hemmersmith King Street, W6 (0117-741 2311) ● Hemmersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, ends 27 Jun, £5-£16, Tue - all seats £5.

MAJOR BARBARA Jemma Redgrave and Peter Bowles star in George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ● Pic. Circ. In rep, tonight 7.45pm, continuing, £8.50-£27.50.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE Shakespeare's cross-cultural comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 19 Sep, £5-£20, concs available.

THEATRE

BEYOND THE WEST END

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Ashes To Ashes Peter's dark drama performed by Toneleigrop Amsterdam. Tue-Sat 8pm, ends 27 Jun, £5-£9, concs £7.

BUFF Toneleigrop Amsterdam performs this controversial drama. Tue-Sat 9.30pm, ends 27 Jun, £5-£9, concs £7, Crisp Road, W6 (0181-237 1111) ● Hemmersmith.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) ● Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 3pm, Sat 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Adelphi Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6009/cc 836 2428) ● Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50.

THEATRE ROYAL The 7 Ages Of Woman Barbara Dickson stars in the drama following one woman's life from cradle to grave. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 27 Jun, £14-£15.50. Theatre Street (01603-630000).

PETERBOROUGH KEY THEATRE Just Like That Play about Tommy Cooper's early life seen through the eyes of his long-lost sister Frankie Lyons. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 27 Jun, £9.50-£12, concs available. Embankment Road (01733-552439).

PORTSMOUTH KING'S THEATRE SOUTHEAST Spring And Port Wine Vintage comedy about a disciplinary father whose daughter finally challenges his authority. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 27 Jun, £5-£18. Albeil Road, Southsea (01705-828282).

READING THE MILL AT SONNING Walling Game Theatre set during a fictional conflict in Spain from Anthony Valentine. Tue-Sat 8.15pm, ends 8 Aug, £2.15pm, ends 27 Jun, £9.50-£12, concs available. Sonning Eye (0118-968 8000).

RICHMOND THEATRE Two By Platter: The Collection & The Lover Harold Pinter's double bill. In rep, tonight 7.45pm, continuing, £7-£20. The Green (0181-940 0088).

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON THE OTHER PLACE Bad Weather Robert Holman's examination of the breakdown in family relationships. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 2 Sep, £12-£19. Southern Lane (01789-256623).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE Measure For Measure Stephen Boxer stars in Shakespeare's examination of justice. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 3 Sep, £5-£37. Waterside (01789-256623).

SWAN THEATRE Bertholmeow Fair Jonson's theatrical drama. In rep, today 1.30pm, ends 1 Sep, £5-£31. Talk Of The City Stephen Pollakoff's drama explores media control in the early days of TV and radio. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 3 Sep, £5-£31. Waterside (01789-256623).

TRURO HALL FOR CORNWALL Kid Hearts And Cornets Robert Powell and Colin Baker star in this story about a ninth-in-line aristocrat determined to win the plumber. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 27 Jun, £3.50-£14, concs £7.50-£12. Back Quay (01872-262465).

WATFORD PALACE Theatre Schiphol, The Phoenix Stage satire about an elitist male quilter who is forced to take on a singing plumber. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, £4-£15, concs £4-£8.50. Clarendon Road (01923-225671).

ST IVES TATE GALLERY The Fragile Celtic John Wells Paintings by a lesser-known St Ives artist. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 1 Nov, £3.50, concs £2. Portmear Beach (01736-795226).

PLYMOUTH PLYMOUTH CITY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Boys: The Disparities Late satirical etchings by the Spanish master, Tue-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-5pm, ends 27 Jun, free. Drake Circus (01752-304774/264878).

BRISTOL SHAFT AT LAKOTA CLUB Sacha and Ramsey's 1970s disco. Tonight 9pm-2am, £3, ends 22 Upper York Street (0117-942 6193).

FAR ROCKAWAY AT JERUSALEM Barely Brekin' Ever's Ben and Pete and guest Rot The Rock. Tonight 10pm-2am, £3, free before 11pm. Rathbone Place, W1 (0171-225 1120) ● Tottenham Court Road.

ED JONES QUINTEA Contemporary approach to the boy quid format. Victoria Embankment Gardens Charing Cross WC2 (0171-875 0441) ● Embankment. Today 12.30pm, free.

STAFFORD-UPON-AVON PRACTICAL TEXT WORKSHOP ON MEASURE FOR MEASURE Members of the RSC company discuss their textual approach. Today 11.45am, £2.50. DESIGN DEMONSTRATION Sets for productions in the current season. Today 11.45am, £2.50.

MUSIC FOR A CLASSICAL STAGE The RSC Music team demonstrate today 2.45pm, £2.50. HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER RSC PROPERT TEAM Fun session for all the family. Jaguar Marquee, Swan Gardens (01789-256623) Today 4.15pm, £2.50.

DAVID ESSEX Cypriote (1970s) singing from his home in the UK. Tonight 7.30pm, £15-£17. (01733-78561) (01733-78561).

STORYTELLERS Blues rock band formed by the late Stevie Ray Vaughan's rhythm section. 100 Club Oxford Street, W1 (0171-636 9933) ● Oxford Circus. Tonight 8pm, £8, concs £6.

THE BEASTIE BOYS MONEY MARK Electric hip hop legends return to the UK with their old drum keyboards. Money Mark as special guest. Braddon Academy Stockwell Road SW9 (0171-924 9999) Tube/BR Braddon. Tonight 8.30pm, phone for availability.

JOSE FELICIANO Quintero and singer best known for his slick bossa-nova version of Light My Fire. Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060) ● Camden Town. Tonight 7pm, phone for prices.

DAVE MATTHEWS Band Multi-million selling US act touring the new album. Before These Crowded Streets. Shepherd's Bush Empire Shepherd's Bush Green W12 (0181-740 7474) ● Shepherd's Bush. Tonight 7pm, £10.

NORWICH MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES US ska-punks tour the UK's ska scene. The Waterfront King Street (01603-63271

TUESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

WHILE THE charming supporters of Stoke City warble Tom Jones's "Dellah" as their anthem, a beer-bellied Keith Allen (right) represents England with a song about windmills. The shame of it! Arthur Smith uncovers the cream and the crud of the football chatters' repertoire in *Songs from the Terraces* (9pm R2). On a loftier level, violinist Marcia Crayford, cellist Raphael Wallfisch and pianist John York perform a

programme of late Debussy at this year's Aldeburgh Festival (1pm R3), while File on 4 (9pm R4) dissects the shockwaves brought about by India and Pakistan's game of nuclear one-upmanship. Reporting from Rajasthan, Gerry Newman examines India's hair-raising plans for tenfold expansion of its nuclear industry, and asks if Uncle Tony can help allay the situation. FIONA STURGES



anyone who uses the law. 1: Jury system.

RADIO 1
(97.8-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball
8.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo
Whaley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00
Dave Pearce. 6.30 Steve Lamacq -
the Evening Session. 8.30 Digital
Update. 8.40 John Peel. 10.30
Mary Anne Hobbs. 1.00 Clive
Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake
Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed
Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker.
7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest
Hits. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00
Songs from the Terraces. See *Pick of the Day*. 10.00 Rodgers and
Hart: A Thousand Songs. 10.30
Richard Allinson. 12.05 Jeff Owen.
3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
8.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: C P
E Bach.

1.00 Lunchtime Concert: Aldeburgh
Festival. See *Pick of the Day*.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Voices.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. In the last
of four concerts, baritone Karl
Daymond and pianist Iain Burnside
perform songs by Copland, Foster,
Ives, Nigg, Alkan, Rorem,
Gershwin, Berlin, Kern, Bernstein
and Sondheim.

8.35 Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.
Respect: Ancient Arts and Dances.
9.00 Postscript. 2: The Capital of
the World. Pao is a waiter who
longs to be a bullfighter. He
builds a practice bull with two
carving knives and a chair.
Reader Kerry Shale. Abridged
by John Hartley.

9.20 American Film Music. In the
last of two programmes, Paul
Batemann conducts the BBC
Concert Orchestra in film scores by
European composers working in
Hollywood. Erich Korngold: Sea
Hawk. The Adventures of Robin
Hood. Miklos Rozsa: Ben Hur. Max
Steiner: Gone with the Wind; The
Adventures of Don Juan. Franz

Waxman: Rebecca; Prince Valiant.
10.45 Night Waves. For nearly 170
years before the American Civil
War, the Ball family owned an
empire of slave plantations across
South Carolina. When journalist
Edward Ball set out to trace the
story of his family, their slaves and
their descendants, he stirred up
one of the thorniest issues in
contemporary America. Richard
Coles talks to Ball about his
personal memoir and the
questions of retribution and racial
division that it raises. Plus first-
night news from the European
premiers of David Mamet's play
The Old Neighborhood, which tells
a similar story of a man
confronting the past.

11.20 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Bach.

1.00 - 8.00 Through the Night.
RADIO 4
(52.4-94.8MHz FM)
6.00 Today.

9.00 Unreliable Evidence.
9.30 You Probably Think This
Song is about You.

9.45 Serial: Intimate Death.
10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Hunting for Heidi. (R)

11.30 Dinner Ladies. (R)
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Tricks of the Trade.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.45 Afternoon Play: Family Affair.

3.00 NEWS: The Exchange
(071) 580 4444.
3.30 Matchmakers.
3.45 Mademoiselle Dias De Corta.

4.00 NEWS: The Learning Curve.
4.30 Shop Talk.
5.00 PM.

6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.30 Front Row: Mark Lawson

investigates the power of the
strict but inspirational Scottish
school teacher, as epitomised by
Muriel Spark's Miss Jean Brodie -
who returns to the London stage
this week.

7.45 Under One Roof: I Never
Promised You a Rose Garden. Sally
Worboys's series is based on the
original stories by Michele Hanson.
Nothing in the garden is quite as
lovely as Gillian and her boyfriend
would like, as he sets to work to
create an Eden in the suburbs and
battles with major resistance from
Bernice and Chloe. With Paola
Dionisotti and Edna Dore (2.5).

8.00 NEWS: File on 4. India's
recent nuclear tests have been
internationally condemned. But is
the isolation of India the correct
policy for the West, given the
perilous nature of India's home-
grown and expanding nuclear
power industry? With Gerry
Northam. See *Pick of the Day*.

8.40 In Touch: Peter White with
news for visually impaired people.
9.00 NEWS: Case Notes. Graham
Easton looks at what the
healthcare system has to offer us.

9.30 Unreliable Evidence. In the
first of six programmes, barrister
Clive Anderson and expert guests
cut through the legal jargon to
address the issues that affect

anyone who uses the law. 1: Jury
system.

10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet
and Black. By Stenholm, read in
tan pants by Greg Wise. Julian
chooses between comfortable
mediocrity and heroic dreams. He
decides it is his duty to attempt a
seduction (2/10). (R)

11.00 On the Town with the
League of Gentlemen. The final
episode of the acclaimed black
comedy. 6: Christmas party time in
the town of Spent. Written by and
starring Mark Gatiss, Reece
Shaarsmith, Steve Pemberton and
Jeremy Dyson. (R)

11.30 Talking Pictures.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: Intimacy.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(98kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00
- 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast.
5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.
11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(93.9-99.8MHz FM)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Wimbledon and World Cup
7.30 World Cup 98. Ian Payne is
your host as Scotland play their

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

WAS THERE ever a better
screen pairing than Spencer
Tracy and Katherine Hepburn?
They give their customary
sparkling double act in *Guess
Who's Coming to Dinner* (4pm
and 10pm Sky Movies Gold).
Stanley Kramer's film for which
Hepburn (right) and screen-
writer William Rose landed
Oscars. They play wealthy San
Franciscans whose suppo-
sed tolerance is sorely tested
when their daughter (Katherine

Houghton, in real life Hepburn's
niece) brings home a black
fiance (Sidney Poitier). As any
new parent will tell you, the
arrival of one new-born baby
turns your life upside-down.
How much more disruptive,
then, is the appearance of three
or more children at the same
time? Superlatives: Infants to
Adulthood (10pm Discovery)
examines the huge impact that
a multiple birth has on parents.
JAMES RAMPTON



Ruby Union USA v Hong Kong (783676).

(783676). 4.30 Zoo Story (783677).
5.00 First Flights (783678). 5.30 History's
Turning Points (783679). 6.00 Animal
Doctor (783680). 6.30 Gulls. Gulls
201 (783681). 7.00 Disaster (783682). 8.00
Discover Magazine (783683). 9.00
Underwater Volcanoes (783684). 10.00
Superheroes: Infants to Adulthood. See *Pick of the Day* (783685). 11.00 Wheel Nuts
(783686). 11.30 Top Marques (783687).
12.00 First Flights (783688). 12.30
Disaster (783689). 1.00-2.00 Superheroes:
Conception to Birth (783690).

SKY 1
7.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters
from Beverly Hills (783691). 7.30 Games
World (783692). 7.45 The Simpsons (783693).
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Channel 5

5:40 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Chicago is her kind of town. (1989/92).

6:00 100 Per Cent. Thee contestants, no host and even fewer viewers. (S) (6828897).

6:30 Family Attraction. A tale of two forms of transport: as Eddie leaves Angus for a spin in an expensive car, and Liam agrees to move back into the caravan. (8230389).

7:00 5 News, including First on Five. Kirsty Young goes walkabout. (S) (T) (605007).

7:30 Realm of the Polar Bear. Wildlife documentary about walrus and belugas (white whales) which converges in the summer to feed and breed at the mouths of Arctic rivers. (S) (T) (9028453).

8:40 Bala Maitra. 1/2 Lynda La Plante's British police dramas are just known for their realism and depth of character - what then quality, at least, is missing from her

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unearthed the life of one Sicilian family. She actually lived quite a headless life - the family's matriarch, having been wiped out in an earthquake first, and it is the women who speak out in the film. - *Venezia Regency* (who attempt to rescue Golden Globe nomination for her role here).

12.05 *Live and Dangerous* (S) (716328) **12.35** *Live and Dangerous* (S) (686770) **3.45** *Asian Foodies Show* (S) (747351) **4.40** *Phenomenal Cell Block H* (694829) **8.30** *100 Per Cent* (S) (893415)

7.45 *Le Femme Nikita* (F) (S) (863987).

10.35 *The Jack Docherty Show*. Minor celebrities meet a Scottish comedian in central London. (S) (863326).

6.45 *Back Life*. The first of three reports in which lime-haired *Venezia Collingridge* looks at "the sex lives of modern Britons" - swinging subcultures, an trailer of SGM "dangereuses", sex-top parties, and other such deeply uneasy gonzos on (S) (858039).

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